

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 1415 (Delegate Smith)  
Appropriations and Ways and Means

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**Education - Community Schools - Report**

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This bill requires each local board of education to submit, by December 1, 2024, a report on community schools to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). MSDE must, by January 1, 2025, submit a report to the General Assembly summarizing the reports received from the local boards. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. MSDE can implement the bill’s requirements with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** Local school systems can provide the required reports with existing resources, but for those with a substantial number of community schools, completing the report may detract from other duties, including providing direct services to families and students in community schools.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The required report by each local school system must include the following information from each community school in the county:

- the school’s progress toward addressing the needs identified in the student needs assessment for the school;
- the number and type of wraparound services provided to students and their families at the school;

- an evaluation of whether the wraparound services directly contributed to any progress made;
- a list of community partners with which the school partnered;
- a list of all professional development opportunities provided to school staff;
- a specified performance evaluation of the school; and
- areas of additional support the school needs to better serve students, families, or school staff.

### **Current Law:**

#### *Community Schools, Needs Assessment, and Implementation Plans*

“Community school” means a public school that establishes a set of strategic partnerships between the school and other community resources that promote student achievement, positive learning conditions, and the well-being of students, families, and the community by providing wraparound services. The Director of Community Schools in MSDE must coordinate professional development for community school coordinators at each community school.

A community school coordinator is responsible for completing an assessment of the needs of the students in the school for appropriate wraparound services to enhance the success of all students in the school, and developing an implementation plan based on the assessment, in cooperation with other interested stakeholders. The needs assessment must (1) include an assessment of the physical, behavioral, mental health needs and wraparound service needs of students, their families, and their communities and (2) be submitted to MSDE and the local school system within one year of receiving a concentration of poverty personnel grant (CPG) or within one year of becoming a community school. Local governments are expected to demonstrate support for a community school through meaningful partnerships and support that is supplemental to and does not supplant existing efforts. “Wraparound services” provided by a community school, according to its implementation plan, may involve extended learning time and an extended school year as well as any of a wide range of specified services, supports and practices.

#### *Concentration of Poverty Grants*

CPGs have two components. First, for each eligible school a personnel grant is received to employ a community school coordinator with specified qualifications and provide full-time coverage by at least one health care practitioner. A county that provides health coverage or community school services with funds other than the personnel grant must continue to provide those services through fiscal 2030. Second, per pupil grants are provided for each qualifying school following the completion of a community school needs assessment.

CPG funds must generally be distributed by the local school board to each eligible school. However, if the local school system has at least 40 eligible schools, the local board may expend up to 50% of CPG personnel and per pupil grants on behalf of eligible schools in accordance with a plan developed in consultation with eligible schools that ensures that each eligible school receives the required positions/coverage and services.

The personnel grant is a State-funded categorical amount that increases with inflation. Per pupil grants are only wealth equalized for districts that receive the minimum State funding (40%) under the compensatory education formula; for all other districts, the State pays the full amount. The local funding percentage is based on the compensatory education wealth equalization formula. The following table lays out the phase-in of the two components of the funding.

### **Concentration of Poverty Grants Phase-in**

<b>School Poverty Percentage</b>	<b>Year Personnel Phased-in</b>	<b>Year Per Pupil Phased-in</b>
> = 80%	FY 2020	FY 2022
75%-80%	FY 2021	FY 2023
70%-75%	FY 2022	FY 2024
65%-70%	FY 2023	FY 2025
60%-65%	FY 2024	FY 2026
55%-60%	FY 2025	FY 2027

School concentration percentages are based on a three-year average of compensatory education enrollment in each public school. Under Chapter 55 of 2021, the three-year enrollment count excludes the 2020-2021 school year. A percentage increment of per pupil funding for each of six years of eligibility, beginning with 16% in the first year of eligibility and culminating in 100% funding by the seventh year, is specified in statute. County governments (including Baltimore City) must appropriate the greater of the combined local share of several aid programs, including the CPG program, after certain local relief provisions are applied, or the per pupil maintenance of effort result.

### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City Public Schools; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

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