
By: Delegates C. Mitchell, Kirk, and Oaks
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Criteria for Evaluation of Public School Accountability**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing certain criteria for the evaluation of public school
4 accountability; requiring the Department of Education to adopt certain regulations;
5 and generally relating to the evaluation of public school accountability.

6 BY renumbering

7 Article - Education

8 Section 7-203.1

9 to be Section 7-203.2

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

13 Article - Education

14 Section 7-203

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

17 BY adding to

18 Article - Education

19 Section 7-203.1

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
23 MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7-203.1 of Article - Education of the Annotated Code of
24 Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-203.2.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
26 read as follows:

2

1 **Article - Education**

2 7-203.

3 (a) The State Board, the State Superintendent, each county board, and each
4 public school shall implement a program of education accountability for the operation
5 and management of the public schools.

6 (b) The education accountability program shall include the following:

7 (1) The State Board and the State Superintendent shall assist each county
8 board to establish educational goals and objectives that conform with statewide
9 educational objectives for subject areas including reading, writing, and mathematics;

10 (2) With the assistance of its county board, each public school shall survey
11 current student achievement in reading, language, mathematics, and other areas to assess
12 its needs;

13 (3) Each public school shall establish as the basis for its assessment of its
14 needs, project goals and objectives that are in keeping with the goals and objectives
15 established by its county board and the State Board;

16 (4) With the assistance of its county board, the State Board, and the State
17 Superintendent, each public school shall develop programs to meet its needs on the basis
18 of the priorities it sets;

19 (5) Evaluation programs shall be developed at the same time to determine if
20 the goals and objectives are being met; and

21 (6) A reevaluation of programs, goals, and objectives shall be undertaken
22 regularly.

23 (c) National standardized testing may not be the only measure for evaluating
24 educational accountability.

25 (d) The Department shall assist each county board to establish an education
26 accountability program by providing:

27 (1) Guidelines for development and implementation of the program by the
28 county boards; and

29 (2) Assistance and coordination where it is needed and requested by the
30 county boards.

31 (e) The State Superintendent shall send the Governor and, subject to § 2-1312 of
32 the State Government Article, the General Assembly a report each January that includes:

33 (1) Documentation of the progress of the Department, the county boards,
34 and each public school in this State towards their respective goals and objectives; and

35 (2) Recommendations for legislation that the State Board and the State
36 Superintendent consider necessary to improve the quality of education in this State.

3

1 (f) On the recommendation of the State Superintendent, the State Board shall
2 include in its annual budget request the funds it considers necessary to carry out the
3 provisions of this section.

4 7-203.1.

5 (A) THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA SHALL BE USED TO EVALUATE PUBLIC
6 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY:

7 (1) THE MARYLAND FUNCTIONAL TEST RESULTS FOR:

8 (I) STUDENTS AT THE END OF THE 9TH GRADE IN READING,
9 MATHEMATICS, AND WRITING; AND

10 (II) STUDENTS AT THE END OF 9TH OR 10TH GRADE IN
11 CITIZENSHIP;

12 (2) THE MARYLAND CRITERION REFERENCED TEST RESULTS FOR
13 STUDENTS IN GRADES 3, 5, AND 8 IN READING, LANGUAGE USAGE, MATHEMATICS,
14 WRITING, SOCIAL STUDIES, AND SCIENCE;

15 (3) THE YEARLY PROMOTION RATE OF STUDENTS IN GRADES K
16 THROUGH 6;

17 (4) THE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM COMPLETION RATE OF UNIVERSITY
18 OF MARYLAND SYSTEM ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS OR DEPARTMENT-APPROVED
19 OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS OR BOTH;

20 (5) THE AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE RATE OF STUDENTS IN GRADES
21 K THROUGH 12;

22 (6) THE YEARLY DROPOUT RATE OF STUDENTS IN GRADES 9 THROUGH
23 12;

24 (7) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GRADES PRE-K
25 THROUGH 12, INCLUDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES WHO HAVE CURRENT
26 INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLANS;

27 (8) THE RATE OF STUDENTS WHO:

28 (I) HAVE LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY, MEANING STUDENTS
29 WHO:

30 1. HAVE A PRIMARY HOME LANGUAGE OTHER THAN
31 STANDARD ENGLISH USED IN ACADEMIC PURSUITS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED
32 STATES; AND

33 2. HAVE BEEN ASSESSED AS HAVING LIMITED OR NO
34 AGE- APPROPRIATE ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND, SPEAK, READ, OR WRITE ENGLISH;

35 (II) RECEIVE SERVICES FUNDED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY
36 CHAPTER 1 OF THE FEDERAL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT;
37 AND

38 (III) RECEIVE FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS;

4

1 (9) THE WEALTH PER PUPIL, MEANING THE TAXABLE WEALTH OF A
2 LOCAL JURISDICTION AS DEFINED BY § 5-202 OF THIS ARTICLE, IN RELATION TO THE
3 SEPTEMBER 30 ENROLLMENT OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM;

4 (10) THE PER PUPIL EXPENDITURE, MEANING THE AVERAGE TOTAL
5 COST OF PROVIDING EDUCATION TO EACH STUDENT IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN A
6 LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM, EXCLUDING CAPITAL EXPENDITURES;

7 (11) THE NUMBER OF INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF, PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT
8 STAFF, AND INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS PER 1,000 STUDENTS;

9 (12) THE LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR;

10 (13) THE LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL DAY;

11 (14) THE NUMBER OF DOCUMENTED GRADE 12 STUDENTS WHO ARE:

12 (I) ANTICIPATING ACCEPTANCE AT A 4-YEAR COLLEGE, A 2-YEAR
13 COLLEGE, OR A SPECIALIZED SCHOOL; OR

14 (II) PLANNING TO ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT RELATED TO
15 PREPARATION, EMPLOYMENT UNRELATED TO PREPARATION, OR THE MILITARY;

16 (15) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN GRADES 3, 5, AND 8 WHO HAVE
17 TAKEN THE COMPREHENSIVE TESTS OF BASIC SKILLS AND THEIR SYSTEMWIDE
18 MEDIAN NATIONAL PERCENTILE RANKS IN READING, LANGUAGE ARTS, AND
19 MATHEMATICS;

20 (16) WHETHER A SCHOOL IS:

21 (I) A SYSTEMWIDE SCHOOL THAT ALLOWS SYSTEMWIDE
22 ENROLLMENT; OR

23 (II) A GEOGRAPHIC ATTENDANCE AREA SCHOOL; AND

24 (17) THE CRIME RATE IN THE GEOGRAPHIC ATTENDANCE AREA.

25 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO SPECIFY THE
26 STANDARDS THAT SHALL BE USED TO MEASURE THE ACCOUNTABILITY CRITERIA
27 LISTED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

28 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 1996.