

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 404 (Delegate Greenip, *et al.*)
Ways and Means

Education - Replacement of Maryland Criterion-Referenced Tests

This bill provides that national standardized tests shall be the only test used to measure student performance for evaluating educational accountability. The bill also makes the National Standardized Academic Achievement Test the standard for the State's minimum reading level requirement.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could decrease by \$2.1 million annually. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None. Small business are not directly affected.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: Currently, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) uses a State developed assessment program known as the Maryland School Performance Assessment Program (MSPAP) to evaluate educational accountability. MSPAP tests are provided on an annual basis to approximately 180,000 students in grades 3, 5, and 8. The tests measure school performance on how well students (1) solve problems cooperatively and individually; (2) apply what they have learned to real world problems; and (3) relate and use knowledge from different subject areas. Subject areas incorporated in the MSPAP tests are reading, writing, language usage, mathematics, science, and social studies. MSDE spends approximately \$4 million annually to develop and administer the MSPAP tests. The

breakdown on the program's costs is illustrated below.

Itemized Expenditure List	FY 1998 Expenditures
CTB/McGraw Hill - Publication of Test Booklets	\$214,408
CTB/McGraw Hill - Packaging, Distribution, Securing of Test Booklets and Documents, and Data Processing	\$1,297,536
CTB/McGraw Hill - Research	\$223,173
Task Development (Teacher Contracts, Copyrights, etc)	\$295,200
Westat - Field Testing	\$44,000
Measurements Inc. - Scoring Tests	\$1,888,090
Total Costs	\$3,962,407

Source: Maryland State Department of Education

This bill would eliminate the Maryland School Performance Assessment Program and replace it with a national standardized academic achievement test. National standardized tests are estimated to cost \$10 per student for a total cost to the State of \$1.8 million. Since the State is currently spending approximately \$4 million annually on MSPAP, State expenditures would decrease by approximately \$2.1 million annually.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 1997

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