

Department of Fiscal Services
 Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 388 (Delegate M. Burns)
 Ways and Means

Education - Maryland School Performance Assessment Program Test

This bill enables a parent of a child who has taken a Maryland School Performance Assessment Program (MSPAP) test to view or obtain a copy of the test and the child’s test results from the school that the child attends or the local county board.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by \$980,000 annually. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: Indeterminate increase in local expenditures. Revenues would not be affected.

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

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The Maryland School Performance Assessment Program (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. The Maryland State Department of Education (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 requires the local boards of education to provide a copy of the test and the child's test results to the child's parent. MSDE advises that since many test questions are used more than once, the assessment program would have to be partially redesigned every year, thus increasing the program's costs in test development, scoring, and research by an additional \$841,000 annually. In addition, MSDE would have to spend \$139,000 annually to ship the test booklets from CTB in California to the local schools. Accordingly, MSDE expenditures could increase by \$980,000 annually.

Local Effect: Local education expenditures for copying costs could increase depending upon the number of parents requesting a copy of their child's test results and test booklet. If all parents request copies, local expenditures could increase by \$250,000 annually.

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

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