

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 353 (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, 1998.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by \$1.1 million annually. Revenues would not be affected.

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

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**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 \$4.2 million annually to develop and administer the MSPAP tests. The breakdown on the program's costs is illustrated below.

Itemized Expenditure List	Actual FY 1998
---------------------------	----------------

	<b>Expenditures</b>
CTB/McGraw Hill - Publication of Test Booklets, Packaging, Distribution, Securing of Test Booklets and Documents, Data Processing, and Research	\$1,734,899
Task Development (Teacher Contracts, Copyrights, etc)	\$467,896
Westat - Field Testing	\$54,478
Measurements Inc. - Scoring Tests	\$1,937,990
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$4,195,263</b>

*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 \$960,000 annually. In addition, MSDE would have to spend \$140,000 annually to ship the test booklets from CTB in California to the local schools. Accordingly, MSDE expenditures could increase by \$1.1 million 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 Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 1998

tlw

---

Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch Jr.

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710