

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 850 (Delegate Benson)

Ways and Means

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**Education - Evaluation of Students - Parental Involvement**

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This bill requires each public school student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the public school to develop an action plan that specifies the responsibilities and objectives of the student and parent or guardian for the duration of the school year. The action plan must include (1) a statement of the student's learning and behavioral objectives; (2) a statement of the learning and behavioral objectives of the parent or guardian for the student; (3) an agreement by the parent or guardian to attend specified meetings and conferences for teacher review of the student's progress in all learning and behavioral objectives; and (4) acknowledgment by the parent or guardian of an understanding and acceptance of responsibilities imposed by the agreement regarding attendance at meetings and conferences and assistance in meeting other objectives defined by the county board to aid the student's intellectual and behavioral growth and development.

A county board may obtain a court order requiring a parent or guardian to comply with the agreement. A parent or guardian who violates the court order may be punished for contempt of court.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1999.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Local school expenditures could increase by \$27.5 million annually beginning in FY 2000. Revenues would not be affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a local government unit.**

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Local Effect:** Approximately 822,000 public school students are enrolled in kindergarten

through grade 12 in fiscal 1999. Pursuant to this bill, at the beginning of each school year or upon admission of a new student, the public school system would have to develop an individualized action plan for each student. Assuming the development of each action plan takes 30 minutes of staff time and the progress report lasts for 30 minutes, local school workloads would increase statewide by over 822,000 hours. On average, this would require local school systems to add two additional staff days to teachers' and certain school employees' contracts. With an average teacher salary of \$41,400, each additional staff day would cost \$220. With approximately 62,500 instructional staff employed by local boards of education, local school expenditures could increase by \$27.5 million each year.

This estimate is similar to information provided by the Howard County Public School System. In its analysis, local school expenditures in the county would increase by around \$1.1 million, due to the need for two additional teacher work days.

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**Information Source(s):** Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Maryland State Department of Education, Howard County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 15, 1999  
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