

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2000 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 70 (Delegate D'Amato)  
 Ways and Means

---

**Education - Maryland Extended Learning Bootstrap Pilot Program**

---

This bill establishes the Maryland Extended Learning Bootstrap Pilot Program in seven counties for the purpose of providing extended academic programs for students in grades three through five who have demonstrated deficiencies in reading, writing, and mathematics. The Governor must include \$20 million in the State budget for the program for fiscal 2002, 2003, and 2004. Each participating school system must submit an annual evaluation report to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2001, and sunsets on June 30, 2004.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures would increase by \$20 million annually in FY 2002 through FY 2004. Revenues would not be affected.

(in millions)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	0	20.0	20.0	20.0	0
Net Effect	\$0	(\$20.0)	(\$20.0)	(\$20.0)	\$0

*Note: ( ) = decrease; GF = general funds*

**Local Effect:** State aid to seven local boards of education would increase by approximately \$19.4 million annually in FY 2002 through FY 2004. Local expenditures in participating counties would increase by at least \$19.4 million annually through FY 2004.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

---

**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The Maryland Extended Learning Bootstrap Pilot Program would be implemented in seven jurisdictions: Baltimore City and Allegany, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, and Wicomico counties, plus two additional jurisdictions selected by the State Board of Education. The pilot program would serve students in grades three through five who have demonstrated deficiencies in reading, writing, and mathematics. The local school system must obtain written consent from the student's parent or guardian prior to the student's participation in the program.

Educational services for the pilot program would either be provided by the local school system or by an instructional provider approved by the State board. The State board must develop a list of approved instructional providers and distribute the list to the selected public schools. If an instructional provider is selected to provide the extended academic instruction, then the local school system must provide the instructional provider with student transportation services, use of school facilities, and any service deemed appropriate by the State board.

The State board is required to establish criteria for evaluating the program. The legislation requires each participating school system to submit an annual evaluation report to the State board and the General Assembly by June 30, 2002, and each year thereafter.

**Current Law:** Local school systems have the authority to establish before- and after-school programs for low-performing students. In addition, the Maryland After-School Opportunity Fund Program distributes grants to local school systems and organizations that offer before- and after-school programs for children.

**Background:** State and local governments provide a variety of programs to supplement academic services for low-performing students. These programs include before- and after-school sessions, school community centers, and recreational programs. The following is a description of many of these programs; however, it is not a comprehensive list of all programs and services provided to low-performing students.

During the 1999 session, the General Assembly approved legislation that established the Maryland After-School Opportunity Fund Program (Ch. 586). The program provides grants to local school systems and organizations that offer before- and after-school programs for children. The proposed fiscal 2001 State budget includes \$10 million for this program.

In addition, the proposed fiscal 2001 State budget includes \$2 million within the Office for Children, Youth, and Families to fund school community centers. This program enables participating public schools to remain open after regular hours and on weekends in order for

students to engage in recreational and supplementary educational activities.

The type of after-school programs provided by local governments vary across the State. In Howard County, the Department of Recreation and Parks is one of the leading agencies in the county providing child care services. The department supervises over 30 programs during the school year and summer months at 19 different sites. These programs include: before- and after-school programs, full-day kindergarten care programs, recreation programs, and inclusion services for individuals with disabilities.

**State Fiscal Effect:** General fund expenditures would increase by \$20 million annually in fiscal 2002 through fiscal 2004. Of this amount, approximately \$19.4 million would be provided to local school systems for student services and system-wide support services, while \$600,000 would be retained by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for support services.

MSDE would spend approximately \$100,000 to develop a school selection criteria, monitor the quality and impact of the local extended academic programs, and prepare and distribute current lists of approved instructional providers. In addition, MSDE would spend \$500,000 to establish a database to evaluate the pilot program. These costs include \$52,600 (salary and benefits) to hire one staff specialist to set up, monitor, and administer the program.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** State funding to seven participating local school systems would increase by \$19.4 million annually in fiscal 2002 through fiscal 2004. This funding will provide extended academic programs for certain low performing students.

Approximately 55,000 students in the five identified pilot jurisdictions have demonstrated deficiencies in reading, writing, and mathematics as measured by outcomes on the Maryland School Performance Assessment Program (MSPAP). MSPAP are annual tests given to students in grades three, five, and eight which measure a student's knowledge in reading, writing, language usage, mathematics, science, and social studies. MSPAP requires students to apply knowledge across subjects areas. Students must show that they understand reading selections, and that they can develop written responses, solve multi-step mathematical problems, conduct science investigations, and demonstrate an understanding of social studies concepts. **Exhibit 1** shows the percentage of students meeting State standards on MSPAP in the five identified pilot jurisdictions in 1998-99.

---

**Exhibit 1**  
**Percentage of Students Meeting State Standards on MSPAP**

	3rd Graders			5th Graders		
School System	Reading	Writing	Math	Reading	Writing	Math
Allegany	38.8%	52.7%	44.5%	41.0%	47.2%	49.8%
Anne Arundel	47.8%	47.2%	42.3%	49.3%	39.3%	52.4%
Baltimore City	15.6%	24.4%	11.4%	15.7%	15.7%	16.2%
Prince George's	29.5%	37.4%	25.8%	26.9%	26.8%	31.4%
Wicomico	41.2%	45.2%	34.7%	38.8%	35.6%	42.1%
<b>State Average</b>	<b>41.2%</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>38.9%</b>	<b>41.4%</b>	<b>38.6%</b>	<b>46.2%</b>

Note: Two counties have to be selected by the State Board of Education.

---

### Estimated Cost of Extended Academic Programs

Program costs depend on several factors, including the type of academic program, the number of students served, the student-teacher ratio, facility expenses, transportation, and whether the program uses public school teachers or private instructors. A before- and after-school program may cost between \$785 per student if private instructors are used or \$1,850 per student if public school teachers are used. An extended day program and a Saturday program may cost around \$350 per student.

The cost to enroll all 55,000 students in a before- and after-school program lasting four hours each school day could total between \$43 million and \$102 million each year. Enrolling each student in an extended day or Saturday program would cost approximately \$18.5 million each year.

Since the required State funding under this bill totals \$20 million, and assuming at least 55,800 participating students, participating local school systems would either have to limit most students to an extended day or Saturday program or to contribute local funds to the program.

---

## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education, Montgomery County Public Schools, Howard County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 1, 2000  
cm/jr

---

Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch, Jr.

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510