

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1121
Ways and Means

(Prince George's County Delegation)

**Task Force to Study Implementing a Year-Round School Curriculum in
Prince George's County
PG 405-05**

This bill establishes a task force to make recommendations regarding the implementation of year-round schooling in Prince George's County as a method for reducing the county's achievement gap. The task force must be appointed by July 1, 2005 and must submit its findings by December 31, 2005. Staff for the task force will be provided by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

The bill takes effect June 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MSDE could staff the task force with existing personnel and resources.

Local Effect: The establishment of the task force would not materially affect Prince George's County finances.

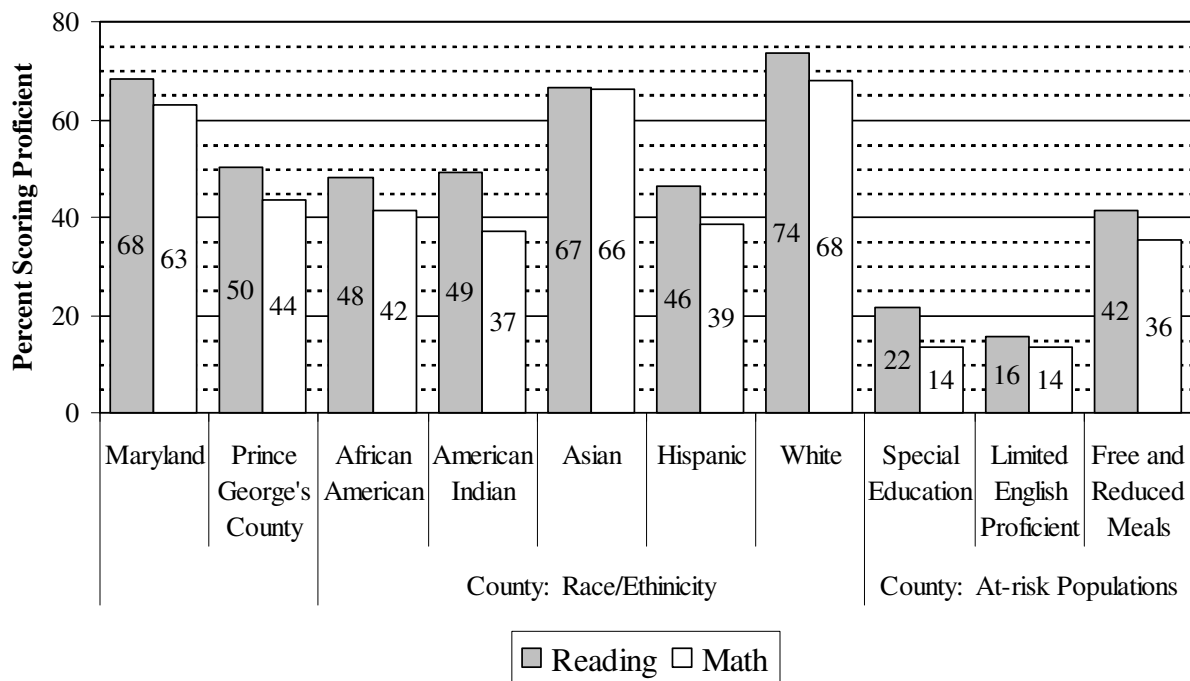
Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: As shown in **Exhibit 1**, the percentage of fifth grade students in Prince George's County who score at the proficient level on State reading and math assessments is nearly 20 percentage points below the statewide average. The exhibit also shows the percentage of Prince George's County students scoring at the proficient level among the five different race/ethnicity categories measured and among three categories of at-risk

students. The exhibit demonstrates the “achievement gap” between Asian and white students and their African American, American Indian, and Hispanic peers. The percentage of Asians and whites who score at the acceptable levels meets or exceeds the State average, while the percentage of students in the other race/ethnicity categories who score at the proficient level is approximately 20 percentage points below the State average. Examining the at-risk populations shows even wider disparities between the overall county assessment results and the results for special education and limited English proficient students.

Exhibit 1
Percentage of Fifth Grade Students Scoring at the Advanced or Proficient Levels
2004 Maryland State Assessments



Source: Maryland State Department of Education

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 18, 2005
mp/rhh

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