

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 127 (Delegate Cardin, *et al.*)
 Ways and Means

Public Schools - Summer Learning Pilot Program

This bill establishes a Summer Learning Pilot Program to provide additional instruction in mathematics, reading, and language arts in Title I elementary schools during the summer break. The State and participating local school systems must share in the costs of the program.

The bill is effective July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$557,600 in FY 2008 to implement the pilot program in three Title I elementary schools. Future year estimates reflect continued State grants for summer school programs, annualization, regular salary increases, and inflation. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	557,600	534,700	538,900	543,400	548,100
Net Effect	(\$557,600)	(\$534,700)	(\$538,900)	(\$543,400)	(\$548,100)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: State aid for local school systems selected to participate in the pilot program would increase by an estimated \$450,000 in FY 2008. Local school expenditures for the systems could increase by a total of \$450,000 in FY 2008 to provide the required local matches. Increases in local school expenditures could be offset by funds already earmarked for summer school programs.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: With the approval of the local boards of education for schools chosen to participate in the program, the State Board of Education must select up to three Title I elementary schools to host the Summer Learning Pilot Program. With the assistance of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), a local board of education participating in the program must develop a model summer school program that provides a grade appropriate preview of the concepts and skills that will be taught in the upcoming school year, strengthens basic skills, and is linked to a school's regular curriculum. MSDE must assist the local board in providing training for teachers, administrators, and volunteers on how to operate an effective program.

In consultation with the State Board of Education, a local board must determine the cost of the program and identify funds to cover 50% of the program cost. The State must pay the other 50% or \$150,000 per school, whichever is less.

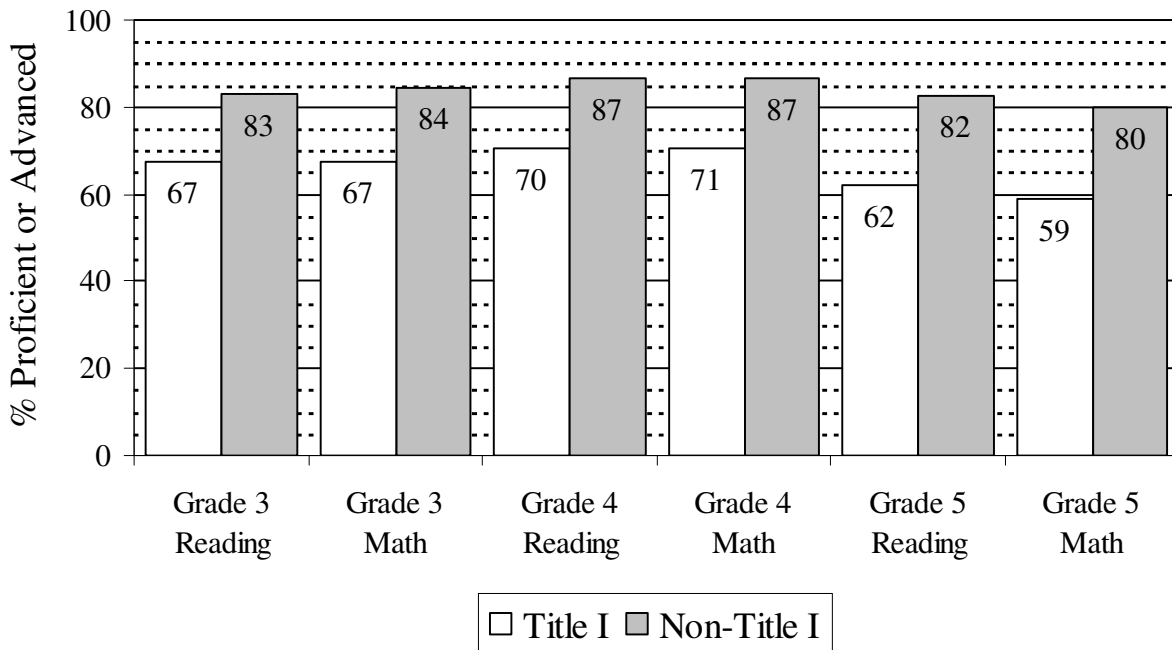
The State board must report on the effectiveness of the program by December 1, 2008. The report must include: (1) comparisons of participating students' achievement levels before and after the summer program; (2) performance comparisons of participating students and students who did not participate; (3) evaluations from parents and participating teachers; (4) information on the number of students receiving free and reduced price meals; (5) attendance records of participating students; and (6) a description of the recruitment campaign and response to the campaign.

Current Law: The Summer Learning Pilot Program would be a new initiative.

Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides funding that is distributed to schools with concentrations of low-income students.

Background: The preamble to the bill notes that all young people are at risk of experiencing a loss of academic skills during the summer months and that summer learning loss contributes to the achievement gap between low-income students and their more affluent peers. A comparison of proficiency rates on the Maryland School Assessment among elementary school students receiving Title I services (*i.e.*, low-income students) and students who do not is shown in **Exhibit 1**. The exhibit reveals a difference of 16 to 21 percentage points in each grade level and subject between Title I students and non-Title I students.

Exhibit 1
Percent of Students Scoring at the Proficient or Advanced Levels
on Maryland State Assessments
2006



Source: Maryland State Department of Education

State Expenditures: Assuming the maximum State contribution to the program, \$150,000 in each of three participating schools, general fund expenditures will increase by an estimated \$557,552 in fiscal 2008. This amount includes \$450,000 to support summer school programs in three Title I elementary schools and \$107,552 for MSDE to provide technical assistance and training to summer school staff.

A State share of \$150,000 for a summer school program in one school would mean total costs of at least \$300,000. It is estimated that this level of funding could support approximately 15 teachers and 15 paraprofessionals for a six-week summer school program, plus two days of training for teachers, instructional supplies and materials, two meals per day for students, transportation, and utilities. Depending on class sizes, approximately 200 to 375 students could be served by each of the three programs.

The \$107,552 estimate for MSDE administrative costs assumes that two half-time education specialists, one for math and one for reading and language arts, would be hired by MSDE in January 2008 to begin preparations to implement the pilot program in the summer of 2008. In addition to the staffing costs, an estimated \$60,000 would be needed

to purchase or contract for the development of training materials for participating teachers and appropriate pre- and post-tests for each subject and each of five grade levels. This estimate assumes that the local boards of education, not MSDE, will have primary responsibility for the development of summer school curricula.

	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$40,297	\$82,147
Contractual Services	60,000	0
Local School Systems Grants	450,000	450,000
Operating Expenses	<u>7,255</u>	<u>2,535</u>
Total State Expenditures	\$557,552	\$534,682

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) ongoing grants of \$450,000 per year; (2) 4.5% annual salary increases and 3% employee turnover; and (3) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Local Fiscal Effect: Local school systems participating in the pilot program would receive additional State funds beginning in fiscal 2008 to implement summer school programs and would be required to pay half of the total cost. Assuming the maximum State shares are attained, local costs will increase by at least \$450,000 per year. All local school systems currently provide some form of summer school, and it is possible that existing local funds budgeted for summer school could be used to meet the local match requirement.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A nearly identical bill, HB 1008 of 2006, received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee but no further action was taken.

Cross File: SB 466 (Senator Pugh, *et al.*) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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mll/rhh

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