

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 628  
Ways and Means

(Prince George's County Delegation)

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**Prince George's County - School Attendance Performance Program**  
**PG 407-07**

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This bill establishes a Prince George's County School Attendance Performance Program to reward schools in the county that show substantial improvements in their attendance rates. To the extent that funds for the program are included in the county budget, the Prince George's County Superintendent of Schools must annually distribute recognition awards to county schools where data-based measures of attendance have improved. The county board of education must establish policies for the determination of eligibility for and distribution of the awards. Awards may not supplant funds regularly appropriated for use by the school.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Prince George's County expenditures would increase beginning in FY 2008 in accordance with the funding provided for the program in the county government's annual budget. Local revenues for the county would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The school attendance improvement team in a school receiving an award under the Prince George's County School Attendance Performance Program must determine how the award will be used. Funds may not be used for staff bonuses or

differential pay increases and must be expended in accordance with the policies of Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS). The principal of a school receiving an award must file a report indicating how the funds were used.

**Current Law:** The Prince George’s County School Attendance Performance Program would be a new program. There is nothing in State law that would prohibit this program from being implemented locally.

**Background:** Attendance statistics for PGCPS from the 2005-2006 school year are compared to statewide statistics in the table below. For most of the measures, Prince George’s County students do not perform as well as the State averages and rank in the bottom half of the State’s 24 local school systems.

<u>Attendance Measure</u>	<u>Prince George’s</u>	<u>State Average</u>	<u>Rank*</u>
Average Daily Attendance Percentage (ADA%)	93.2%	93.7%	tie 17
Prekindergarten to Grade 6 ADA%	95.1%	95.0%	tie 11
Grade 7 to 12 ADA%	91.1%	92.3%	tie 20
Percentage of Students Habitually Truant	4.4%	2.4%	23
Annual Dropout Rate for High School Students	4.0%	3.6%	18
Four-year Graduation Rate	86.6%	85.4%	15

\*Ranks are for the 24 local school systems, with a rank of 1 reflecting the most favorable rate and a rank of 24 reflecting the least favorable rate.

**Local Expenditures:** *Prince George’s County did not respond to requests for information on this bill.*

Prince George’s County expenditures would increase in accordance with the amount included in the county budget for the Prince George’s County School Attendance Performance Program. There are approximately 205 public schools in the county. If 10% of the schools received performance awards averaging \$2,000, county expenditures would increase by \$40,000.

### 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 13, 2007  
bfl/rhh

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