

SENATE BILL 293

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CF 2lr2584

By: **Senators Miller, Kittleman, Benson, Brinkley, Colburn, Conway, Currie, DeGrange, Edwards, Ferguson, Forehand, Garagiola, Getty, Glassman, Jacobs, Jennings, Jones–Rodwell, Kasemeyer, Kelley, King, Klausmeier, Madaleno, Manno, Mathias, McFadden, Montgomery, Peters, Pipkin, Pugh, Ramirez, Raskin, Robey, Shank, Stone, Young, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Core Content Areas – Accountability Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education and the State
4 Superintendent of Schools to assist each county board of education to establish
5 certain goals and objectives that conform with certain objectives for subject
6 areas that include science and social studies; requiring each public school to
7 survey current student achievement in science and social studies; requiring the
8 State Board and the State Superintendent to design and implement certain
9 assessment programs in certain subjects and requiring the social studies
10 assessment program to provide certain information; requiring certain grade
11 band assessments and end-of-course assessments to be established,
12 implemented, and administered annually at certain levels by a certain school
13 year; requiring county boards of education to include certain information in the
14 boards' comprehensive master plans and updates to the plans; and generally
15 relating to an education accountability program for certain core content areas.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
17 Article – Education
18 Section 5–401(a) and (b)(1)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
22 Article – Education
23 Section 5–401(c) and 7–203
24 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

5–401.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Local performance standards” means standards for student and school performance developed by a county board.

(3) “Plan” means a comprehensive master plan.

(4) “State performance standards” means standards for student and school performance approved by the State Board.

(5) “Update” means an annual update to a county board’s comprehensive master plan.

(b) (1) Each county board shall develop and implement a comprehensive master plan that describes the goals, objectives, and strategies that will be used to improve student achievement and meet State performance standards and local performance standards in each segment of the student population.

(c) The plan or update shall include:

(1) Goals and objectives as required under subsections (d) through (f) of this section that are aligned with State performance standards and local performance standards;

(2) Implementation strategies for meeting goals and objectives;

(3) Methods for measuring progress toward meeting goals and objectives;

(4) Time lines for implementation of the strategies for meeting goals and objectives;

(5) Time lines for meeting goals and objectives;

(6) A description of the alignment of the county board’s budget with goals, objectives, and strategies for improving student achievement;

1 (7) The impact of the proposed goals, objectives, and implementation
2 strategies on public school facilities and capital improvements that may be needed to
3 implement the plan or update; [and]

4 **(8) A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE COUNTY BOARD PLANS TO**
5 **ENSURE AND MEASURE THE ACADEMIC PROFICIENCY OF STUDENTS IN THE**
6 **CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS LISTED IN § 7-203 OF THIS ARTICLE AT VARIOUS**
7 **POINTS DURING THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION OF THE**
8 **STUDENTS; AND**

9 **[(8) (9)** Any other information required by the State
10 Superintendent.

11 7-203.

12 (a) The State Board, the State Superintendent, each county board, and each
13 public school shall implement a program of education accountability for the operation
14 and management of the public schools.

15 (b) The education accountability program shall include the following:

16 (1) The State Board and the State Superintendent shall assist each
17 county board to establish educational goals and objectives that conform with statewide
18 educational objectives for subject areas including reading, writing, [and] mathematics,
19 **SCIENCE, AND SOCIAL STUDIES;**

20 (2) With the assistance of its county board, each public school shall
21 survey current student achievement in reading, language, mathematics, **SCIENCE,**
22 **SOCIAL STUDIES,** and other areas to assess its needs;

23 **(3) (I) THE STATE BOARD AND THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT**
24 **SHALL DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS IN READING,**
25 **LANGUAGE, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND SOCIAL STUDIES;**

26 **(II) THE SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**
27 **REQUIRED IN THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:**

28 1. **PROVIDE INFORMATION NEEDED TO IMPROVE**
29 **PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY ENHANCING THE LEARNING GAINS OF STUDENTS AND**
30 **ACADEMIC MASTERY OF THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE SET FORTH IN THE**
31 **STATE'S ADOPTED SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULA AS DELINEATED; AND**

32 2. **INFORM THE PUBLIC ANNUALLY OF THE**
33 **EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS MADE IN SOCIAL STUDIES AT THE SCHOOL, LOCAL**
34 **SCHOOL SYSTEM, AND STATE LEVELS; AND**

1 **(II) BEGINNING IN THE 2014–2015 SCHOOL YEAR, THE**
2 **FOLLOWING ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE ESTABLISHED, IMPLEMENTED, AND**
3 **ADMINISTERED ANNUALLY:**

4 **1. AT THE ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL**
5 **LEVELS, A STATEWIDE, COMPREHENSIVE, GRADE BAND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**
6 **THAT MEASURES THE LEARNING GAINS OF EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT**
7 **TOWARDS ACHIEVING MASTERY OF THE STANDARDS SET FORTH IN THE STATE’S**
8 **ADOPTED SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULA; AND**

9 **2. AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL, A STATEWIDE,**
10 **STANDARDIZED, END–OF–COURSE ASSESSMENT THAT IS ALIGNED WITH AND**
11 **THAT MEASURES EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT’S SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE OF**
12 **THE STATE’S ADOPTED GOVERNMENT CURRICULA;**

13 **[(3)] (4)** Each public school shall establish as the basis for its
14 assessment of its needs, project goals and objectives that are in keeping with the goals
15 and objectives established by its county board and the State Board;

16 **[(4)] (5)** With the assistance of its county board, the State Board, and
17 the State Superintendent, each public school shall develop programs to meet its needs
18 on the basis of the priorities it sets;

19 **[(5)] (6)** Evaluation programs shall be developed at the same time to
20 determine if the goals and objectives are being met; and

21 **[(6)] (7)** A reevaluation of programs, goals, and objectives shall be
22 undertaken regularly.

23 (c) National standardized testing may not be the only measure for
24 evaluating educational accountability.

25 (d) The Department shall assist each county board to establish an education
26 accountability program by providing:

27 (1) Guidelines for development and implementation of the program by
28 the county boards; and

29 (2) Assistance and coordination where it is needed and requested by
30 the county boards.

31 (e) The State Superintendent shall send the Governor and, subject to §
32 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly a report each January
33 that includes:

1 (1) Documentation of the progress of the Department, the county
2 boards, and each public school in this State towards their respective goals and
3 objectives; and

4 (2) Recommendations for legislation that the State Board and the
5 State Superintendent consider necessary to improve the quality of education in this
6 State.

7 (f) On the recommendation of the State Superintendent, the State Board
8 shall include in its annual budget request the funds it considers necessary to carry out
9 the provisions of this section.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 July 1, 2012.