

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1139

(Delegate M. Washington, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Community School Strategy - Required Notice and Support

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), every two years beginning July 15, 2016, to notify each local school system and each community school in the State that federal Title I funds may be used for expenses associated with community school coordinators and for the coordination of school and community resources associated with the implementation of a community school strategy in a public school in the State. MSDE must also encourage local school systems and community schools to apply for federal funding under Title IV of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for expenses associated with after-school programming, community school coordinators, and the coordination of school and community resources associated with the implementation of a community school strategy. In addition, MSDE must provide technical assistance to local school systems and community schools in applying for this federal funding.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016, and terminates June 30, 2019.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MSDE can provide the required notice and technical assistance to local school systems and community schools using existing resources. The bill does not substantially alter MSDE's current practice, which is generally to provide technical assistance to local school systems upon request.

Local Effect: The bill may facilitate local school systems and community schools to apply for, and receive, additional federal funding.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background:

Every Student Succeeds Act and Federal Funding

[The Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#), which is the latest reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, was signed into law December 10, 2015. MSDE advises that the use of Title I funds for expenses associated with community school coordinators and the coordination of school and community resources may be subject to certain restrictions.

Within Title IV of ESSA, Part B is intended to provide opportunities for communities to establish or expand activities in twenty-first century community learning centers that provide specified services and support to students and families, particularly students who attend low-performing schools, to meet the challenging State academic standards. Section 4625, under Part F, is intended to provide support for the planning, implementation, and operation of full-service community schools that improve the coordination and integration, accessibility, and effectiveness of services for children and families, particularly for children attending high-poverty schools, including high-poverty rural schools.

MSDE advises that there is \$10 million in the federal 2016 budget specifically for support of community schools nationwide and that this will likely be level funded in the federal 2017 budget.

Community Schools and Coordinators

The bill does not define “community school.” The Coalition for Community Schools (CCS) describes a community school as follows:

A community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement leads to improved student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities. Community schools offer a curriculum that emphasizes real-world learning and community problem-solving. Schools become centers of the community and are open to everyone – all day, every day, evenings, and weekends.

CCS indicates that the role of the community school coordinator is to “facilitate and provide leadership for the collaborative process and development of a continuum of services for children, families and community members within a school neighborhood.”

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Coalition for Community Schools, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510