

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 11 (Delegate Wilson)
Ways and Means

Public Schools - African American History - Development of Content Standards and Implementation

This bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to develop content standards for African American history to be included in the State Standards and Frameworks in social studies by December 1, 2021. Each local board of education must develop and implement age-appropriate curriculum guides based on the content standards developed by the State board. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, each public school must include African American history in the social studies curriculum. By December 1, 2021, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must report on the content standards, including the content standards for each grade level. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures may increase by an estimated \$26,100 in FY 2022, as explained below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Local school system expenditures may increase minimally. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Specifically, the bill requires that the content standards for African American history include:

- the history of African people before political conflicts that led to slavery;

- the contributions of African Americans to society;
- slavery and abolition;
- Jim Crow laws;
- the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre;
- social injustice and police brutality; and
- any additional topics determined to be relevant by the State board.

The State board may adopt regulations to implement the requirements of the bill.

Current Law: With the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, SBE establishes basic policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for public schools. Subject to State law and the regulations, bylaws, policies, and guidelines established by SBE, each local board of education must establish the curriculum guides and courses of study for schools in its jurisdiction. Policies, rules, and regulations for the graduation of students from Maryland public schools are established by local boards of education and SBE.

Social Studies Instruction and Topics

According to regulations, each local school system must provide an instructional program in social studies each year for all students prekindergarten through grade 8 and a program that enables students to meet graduation requirements and to select social studies electives in grades 9 through 12. These programs must at least meet the content standards in the regulations. In Maryland, among other required topics, regulations require that the social studies instructional program teach students about the peoples of the nation and the world. Specifically, students must inquire about the people of the United States and the world using a historically grounded, multidisciplinary approach in order to recognize multiple narratives and acknowledge the diversity and commonality of the human experience. Every five years, each local superintendent of schools must certify to the State Superintendent of Schools that the instructional programming for prekindergarten through grade 12 meets, at a minimum, all the requirements set forth in the regulations.

State Expenditures: MSDE advises that the content standards for African American history referenced in the bill are currently included in the [State Frameworks for social studies, which were updated for most grades and courses in 2020](#), and infused into a series of standalone social studies courses. However, there is currently no State Framework (*i.e.*, content standards) specifically in African American history.

To the extent that the current State Standards and Frameworks in social studies meet the requirements of the bill, the bill can be implemented at no additional cost to the State. If content standards and frameworks were created specifically for African American history within the five-month period set by the bill, MSDE advises that it would cost an estimated

\$26,100 in fiscal 2022 to hire a contractual position to lead the work, including a workgroup of 20 teachers for five full day writing sessions. In addition, MSDE staff time may be temporarily redirected from other projects.

Local Expenditures: Assuming the current State Standards and Frameworks meet the requirements of the bill, local school system expenditures and revenues are not affected. If dedicated African American history standards and frameworks are developed, to the extent that additional materials and professional development are required, local school system expenditures may increase minimally; however, it is assumed that any costs can be absorbed in most, if not all, local school system budgets.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Baltimore City Public Schools; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Frederick County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Wicomico County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 24, 2021
rh/rhh

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

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