

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 915 (Senator McCray)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

**The Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Performance Standards - Clarifications**

---

This bill specifies that the performance standards referred to in the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future (the Blueprint) are the standards required in Title 13A of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR). Further, the bill specifies that the accountability system for the Blueprint ensures adequate funds are provided by State and local jurisdictions to local school systems to achieve the performance standards. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill clarifies current law.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill clarifies current law.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:**

*The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future*

Chapter 771 of 2019 established the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future as the policy goals for Maryland’s education system based on the policy recommendations of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (known as the Kirwan Commission after its chair Dr. William “Brit” Kirwan). Legislation was introduced in the 2020 session, passed by the General Assembly, and vetoed by the Governor (House Bill 1300) to implement the

final set of policy and funding recommendations of the commission that will encompass the Blueprint. The General Assembly overrode the veto on February 12, 2021, enacting the law as Chapter 36 of 2021.

Under the law, the Blueprint would, beginning in fiscal 2022, substantially alter State aid and State policy for public schools. It would establish in law the policies and accountability recommendations of the commission, including creation of a new Accountability and Implementation Board to oversee implementation of the policies and funding provided under the Blueprint. Funding for existing education formulas, including the foundation program and targeted programs, is altered and new funding formulas are established for specific purposes, such as the concentration of poverty grant program and publicly funded full-day prekindergarten program.

Chapter 361 of 2018 established a special fund, renamed to be the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund by Chapter 771 of 2019, to assist in providing adequate funding for early childhood, primary and secondary education, including revised funding formulas and prekindergarten expansion grants, to provide a world-class education to students based on the recommendations of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. The Blueprint Fund receives revenues from several sources including the Education Trust Fund and specified online sales tax revenues.

#### *Foundation of a World-class Education*

The foundation of a world-class education system in Maryland under the Blueprint for education will require among other specified requirements (1) funding that is sufficient to enable students to achieve the State's performance standards and that is distributed equitably to school systems and schools across the State; and (2) a strong system of accountability with the authority to hold all of the entities that are an integral part of the education system accountable for implementing the Blueprint and ensuring that funds are being spent effectively consistent with the policy framework to ensure that all students are successful.

#### *Title 13A Code of Maryland Regulations*

Title 13A COMAR contains all of the administrative regulations published by the State Board of Education. It includes performance standards related to the assessment and accountability system required by federal law including performance standards for reading, mathematics, science, attendance, and graduation. It also includes (in COMAR 13A.04) instructional program requirements in English Language Arts, science, mathematics, social studies, physical education, fine arts, and health education.

## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 8, 2021  
rh/rhh

---

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

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