

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 583 (Senator Bailey)
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Maryland Center for School Safety – Public Schools – Reporting of Classroom Disruptions

This bill requires the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) to establish (1) a website through which an individual may anonymously report classroom disruptions at a public school and (2) an office that reviews reports received from the website and refers them to the appropriate county superintendent and school board. Within 45 days of receiving a report, the county superintendent and board must provide a response to MCSS. By June 1 each year, MCSS must make available on its website general information about the number and types of reports it receives, and the responses provided. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$65,900 in FY 2023 for staffing. Out-year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	65,900	76,800	78,900	81,000	83,200
Net Effect	(\$65,900)	(\$76,800)	(\$78,900)	(\$81,000)	(\$83,200)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: It is assumed that local school systems can reply to reports of classroom disruptions with existing resources. However, to the extent that the volume of reports is greater than anticipated, local school systems may need to hire additional staff to handle the volume of responses that must be prepared. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Maryland Center for School Safety

Chapter 372 of 2013 established MCSS as an independent unit within State government under the direction of a governing board chaired by the State Superintendent of Schools. It mandated that the Governor include \$500,000 annually for the center's operations. Chapter 30 of 2018, the Maryland Safe to Learn Act, made MCSS an independent unit within the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) under the direction of the School Safety Subcabinet, consisting of the following individuals or their designees:

- the State Superintendent of Schools;
- the Secretary of Health;
- the Secretary of State Police;
- the Attorney General;
- the Secretary of the Department of Disabilities; and
- the Executive Director of the Interagency Committee on School Construction.

Chapter 30 also increased the mandated appropriation for MCSS's operations to \$2.0 million annually.

Reporting of Student Behavior

A principal of a public or nonpublic school, or a designee, may make a report to any relevant law enforcement agency if, after an investigation is completed, the principal has reason to believe that a student has committed (1) assault in the first degree; (2) assault in the second degree; (3) misuse of electronic communication or interactive computer device; or (4) revenge porn.

By October 1 of each year, MSDE must submit to the Governor and General Assembly a student discipline data report that includes a description of the uses of restorative approaches in the State and a review of disciplinary practices and policies in the State. MSDE must disaggregate data in the report by race, ethnicity, gender, disability status, eligibility for free or reduced-price meals or an equivalent measure, English language proficiency, and type of discipline for the State, each local school system, and each public school. MSDE must also report on alternative school discipline practices.

Each local school board must report to MSDE any incidents of bullying, harassment, or intimidation against students attending a public school in its jurisdiction. MSDE must

create a standard reporting form that collects specified information. Each year, MSDE must report a summary of the information submitted in the reports to specified committees of the General Assembly. The most recent report from March 2021 is available [here](#).

State Expenditures: MCSS operates an anonymous reporting system called Safe Schools Maryland that is available to public and nonpublic schools. The system includes a website, mobile application, and telephone number that students, teachers, school staff, parents, and others may use to report any school or student safety concerns. Tips are routed to appropriate school, public safety, health, or social service personnel to address the reported information. MCSS anticipates using Safe Schools Maryland as the website required by the bill.

However, the bill adds a new layer of reporting for tips related to classroom disruptions. Those reports must be forwarded to local superintendents and schools boards, which must respond to each report. MCSS must then compile the responses and make information about them available on its website. MCSS currently has a part-time individual managing Safe Schools Maryland and requires additional support to implement the bill.

Therefore, general fund expenditures increase by \$65,871 in fiscal 2023, which accounts for a 90-day start-up delay from the bill’s July 1, 2022 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one staff specialist to receive and route reports of classroom disruptions and manage and report responses received from county superintendents and school boards. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Position	1
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$57,248
Operating Expenses	<u>8,623</u>
Total FY 2023 State Expenditures	\$65,871

Future year expenditures reflect a full salary with annual increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Center for School Safety; Baltimore City Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2022
js/clb

Analysis by: Michael C. Rubenstein

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