

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 786

(Senator Carozza, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Public Schools - Curriculum Publication (Curriculum Transparency and Publication Act)

This bill requires, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, each public school to post the curriculum used for each course taught in the school on its publicly accessible website. No later than 60 days after a curriculum for a course is approved or revised by the public school, the public school must post the new or updated curriculum on its publicly accessible website. Each county board of education must ensure that each public school in the county complies with the bill's requirements. The bill defines curriculum as (1) instructional materials; (2) assessment techniques; (3) Internet links for, or the name of, a textbook; and (4) course syllabi. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Local school expenditures may increase in some jurisdictions beginning in FY 2023 to implement the bill's requirements. Revenues are not affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: With the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, the State Board of Education 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 the State Board of Education, 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 the State Board of Education.

Each local superintendent of schools must periodically certify to the State Superintendent that its program of instruction meets specified minimum criteria in specified subjects, including technology education, financial literacy, gifted and talented education, social science, career development, world languages, mathematics, physical education, and language arts/literacy.

Under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Chapter 36 of 2021), the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in consultation with experienced teachers, must develop specified curriculum standards and curriculum resources that include specified elements and meet specified standards, for each subject at each grade level, that build on one another in logical sequence in core subjects. MSDE must submit the curriculum resources and curriculum standards developed to the State Board of Education for adoption.

Using specified assessments in specified core subjects, the State Board of Education must identify low-performing schools. If MSDE, based on a recommendation by the Expert Review Team, determines that a low-performing school's performance is largely due to curricular problems, then the school must use the model curriculum. Otherwise, local school systems and public schools are not required to adopt the curriculum standards and resources developed by MSDE. More information on MSDE's role in the curriculum development process can be found on its [website](#).

Local Fiscal Effect: Some local school systems already post curricula and related materials on their websites. However, this bill will require that each public school post these materials on their website as well. As a result, some local school systems may require additional resources to ensure that each public school curate and post curricula and related materials on their website. The following are the responses from several local school systems:

- Baltimore City Public Schools advises that each public school already reports curriculum standards, scopes and sequences, and resources to the school board and that these materials are made public and are posted on the school system's website. However, if the legislation requires that each lesson plan prepared by public school teachers be posted on the school website, additional resources will be required.
- Baltimore County Public Schools advises that the Division of Curriculum and Instruction already posts written curricula in the *Year-At-A-Glance* document on the school system's [website](#).

- Prince George's County Public Schools advises that the Division of Academics (which approves course curricula) has multiple syllabi for each course offered in the school system and each school in the county may require additional support to curate and post syllabi.
- St. Mary's County Public Schools advises that it can likely comply with the bill's requirements using existing resources provided the curriculum materials the school system already posts are sufficient to meet the bill's definition of assessment techniques.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Baltimore City Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2022
km/hlb

Analysis by: Michael E. Sousane

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