

# SENATE BILL 161

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(PRE-FILED)

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CF HB 200

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By: **Senator A. Washington**

Requested: November 1, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Schools – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing each county board of education that has fewer than a  
4 certain number of community schools and that receives funding from the  
5 Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program for the personnel grant and the per  
6 pupil grant to expend no more than a certain percentage of funds distributed by the  
7 State under certain circumstances; providing that the per pupil grant portion of the  
8 Program prioritize funding for areas of greatest need according to the needs  
9 assessment plan; altering certain requirements for community schools and  
10 community school coordinators; requiring the Director of Community Schools to  
11 create a common needs assessment tool; requiring a community school coordinator  
12 to complete a needs assessment in a certain manner; authorizing the State  
13 Department of Education to modify the needs assessment before granting approval;  
14 requiring the community schools coordinator to review the community school's  
15 implementation plan periodically; and generally relating to community schools in  
16 the State.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
18 Article – Education  
19 Section 5–223(a)(1) through (5), (7), (8), (10), and (14) and (b)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
23 Article – Education  
24 Section 5–223(c) and (f), 9.9–101 through 9.9–104, and 9.9–106  
25 Annotated Code of Maryland  
26 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

27 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

2 **Article – Education**

3 5–223.

4 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

5 (2) “Community school” means a community school under Title 9.9 of this  
6 article.

7 (3) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph,  
8 “concentration of poverty level” means the average percentage of eligible students of the  
9 school’s enrollment for the 3 prior school years rounded to the nearest whole percent.

10 (ii) If the 3 prior school years includes the 2020–2021 school year,  
11 “concentration of poverty level” means:

12 1. The sum of the percentage of eligible students of the  
13 school’s enrollment for the 4 prior school years minus the 2020–2021 school year percentage  
14 of eligible students; divided by

15 2. Three; and

16 3. Rounded to the nearest whole percent.

17 (4) (i) “Eligible school” means:

18 1. For the personnel grant, a public school, including a public  
19 charter school, with a concentration of poverty level of:

20 A. For fiscal year 2020, at least 80%;

21 B. For fiscal year 2021, at least 75%;

22 C. For fiscal year 2022, at least 70%;

23 D. For fiscal year 2023, at least 65%;

24 E. For fiscal year 2024, at least 60%; and

25 F. For fiscal year 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, at  
26 least 55%; and

27 2. For the per pupil grant, a public school, including a public  
28 charter school, with a concentration of poverty level of:

- 1                   A.     For fiscal year 2022, at least 80%;
- 2                   B.     For fiscal year 2023, at least 75%;
- 3                   C.     For fiscal year 2024, at least 70%;
- 4                   D.     For fiscal year 2025, at least 65%;
- 5                   E.     For fiscal year 2026, at least 60%; and
- 6                   F.     For fiscal year 2027, and each fiscal year thereafter, at  
7 least 55%.

8                   (ii)    “Eligible school” includes an alternative option program in the  
9 local school system if the students in the program are not included in the count of eligible  
10 students for another program or school to determine eligibility for the concentration of  
11 poverty grant.

12                   (iii) “Eligible school” does not include a school that is eligible to  
13 receive funding under this section but has closed.

14                   (5)    “Eligible student” means the compensatory education enrollment as  
15 defined in § 5–222 of this subtitle in the second prior fiscal year rounded to the nearest  
16 whole number.

17                   (7)    “Needs assessment” means the assessment completed under § 9.9–104  
18 of this article.

19                   (8)    “Per pupil grant amount” means, for all eligible schools in the county,  
20 the per pupil amount for each eligible school calculated under subsection (d) of this section  
21 multiplied by the number of eligible students in the school.

22                   (10) “Program” means the Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program  
23 established under this section.

24                   (14) “Wraparound services” includes the wraparound services defined under  
25 § 9.9–101 of this article.

26           (b)    (1)    There is a Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program in the State.

27                   (2)    The purpose of the Program is to provide grants to eligible schools with  
28 a high concentration of eligible students.

29                   (3)    The Program consists of the:

30                   (i)    Personnel grant; and

1 (ii) Per pupil grant.

2 (c) (1) (i) 1. For fiscal year 2022, the State shall distribute a personnel  
3 grant to each county board equal to \$248,833 for each eligible school in the county.

4 2. In each subsequent fiscal year, the personnel grant equals  
5 the personnel grant in the prior fiscal year increased by the inflation adjustment.

6 (ii) Except as provided in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, each  
7 county board shall distribute directly to each eligible school the amount provided under  
8 paragraph (1)(i) of this subsection.

9 (iii) 1. **A.** Except as provided in [subsubparagraph 2]  
10 **SUBSUBSUBPARAGRAPH B** of this [subparagraph] **SUBSUBPARAGRAPH**, if a local school  
11 system has at least 40 eligible schools, the county board may, on behalf of eligible schools,  
12 expend no more than 50% of the funds distributed by the State under this paragraph,  
13 provided that a plan is developed in consultation with the eligible schools that ensures that  
14 the requirements of paragraphs (2) through (8) of this subsection are met and the plan is  
15 submitted to the Accountability and Implementation Board in accordance with § 5–402 of  
16 this title.

17 **[2.] B.** **[Subsubparagraph 1] SUBSUBSUBPARAGRAPH A**  
18 of this [subparagraph] **SUBSUBPARAGRAPH** does not apply to a public charter school  
19 unless the public charter school chooses to participate in the plan.

20 **2. A. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN**  
21 **SUBSUBSUBPARAGRAPH B OF THIS SUBSUBPARAGRAPH, IF A LOCAL SCHOOL**  
22 **SYSTEM HAS FEWER THAN 40 ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS, THE COUNTY BOARD MAY, ON**  
23 **BEHALF OF ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS, EXPEND NO MORE THAN 10% OF THE FUNDS**  
24 **DISTRIBUTED BY THE STATE UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH, PROVIDED THAT A PLAN IS**  
25 **DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ENSURES THAT**  
26 **THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPHS (2) THROUGH (8) OF THIS SUBSECTION ARE**  
27 **MET AND THE PLAN IS SUBMITTED TO THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION**  
28 **BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 5–402 OF THIS TITLE.**

29 **B. SUBSUBSUBPARAGRAPH A OF THIS**  
30 **SUBSUBPARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY TO A PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL UNLESS THE**  
31 **PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL CHOOSES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PLAN.**

32 (2) (i) Each eligible school shall employ one community school  
33 coordinator staff position in the eligible school.

34 (ii) 1. Each eligible school shall provide full–time coverage by at  
35 least one professional health care practitioner during school hours, including any extended  
36 learning time, who is a licensed physician, a licensed physician’s assistant, or a licensed  
37 registered nurse, practicing within the scope of the health care practitioner’s license.

1                   2.     A health care practitioner providing coverage under this  
2 subparagraph may work under a school health services program, a county health  
3 department, or a school-based health center.

4                   3.     This subparagraph may not be construed to:

5                   A.     Require that an eligible school hire a full-time health care  
6 practitioner staff position; or

7                   B.     Preclude the hiring of any other health care practitioners  
8 that meet the needs of the students.

9                   (3)    Each eligible school shall use the personnel grant to fund the  
10 requirements under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

11                  (4)    If the personnel grant provided to an eligible school exceeds the cost to  
12 employ the positions and provide the coverage required under paragraph (2) of this  
13 subsection, the eligible school may only use the excess funds to:

14                  (i)     Provide wraparound services to the students enrolled in the  
15 eligible school;

16                  (ii)    Complete the needs assessment; and

17                  (iii)   In fiscal years 2021 through 2025, provide the requirements  
18 under COMAR Title 13A, Subtitle 04, including 13A.04.16.01.

19                  (5)    (i)     If an eligible school, prior to receiving a personnel grant, employs  
20 an individual in a position or has the coverage required under paragraph (2) of this  
21 subsection, at least the same amount of funds shall be provided to the eligible school to be  
22 used for those positions or coverage after receiving a personnel grant.

23                  (ii)    If an eligible school satisfies subparagraph (i) of this paragraph,  
24 then the school shall use the personnel grant in accordance with paragraph (4) of this  
25 subsection.

26                  (6)    The community school coordinator shall be subject to the requirements  
27 under § 9.9–104 of this article.

28                  (7)    A county that provides a school nurse, school health services, or  
29 community school services from funds outside of those made in the fiscal year 2019 local  
30 appropriation to the county board shall continue to provide at least the same resources to  
31 an eligible school through fiscal year 2030.

32                  (8)    If an eligible school becomes ineligible, the school shall remain entitled  
33 to the personnel grant for two school years after the school loses eligibility but may not

1 receive the per pupil grant.

2 (9) The personnel and per pupil grant may be used through fiscal year 2027  
3 to provide the programs required under COMAR Title 13A, Subtitle 04, including  
4 13A.04.16.01.

5 (f) (1) Each eligible school shall use the per pupil grant to provide wraparound  
6 services and other programs and services identified in the eligible school's **MOST RECENT**  
7 needs assessment plan, **PRIORITIZING FUNDING FOR THE AREAS OF GREATEST NEED**  
8 **ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT PLAN.**

9 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, if a  
10 local school system has at least 40 eligible schools, the county board may, on behalf of the  
11 eligible schools, expend no more than 50% of the funds distributed for the per pupil grant,  
12 provided that a plan is developed in consultation with the eligible schools that ensures that  
13 the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection are met and the plan is submitted to  
14 the Accountability and Implementation Board under § 5–402 of this title.

15 (ii) Subparagraph (i) of this paragraph does not apply to a public  
16 charter school unless the public charter school chooses to participate in the plan.

17 (3) **(I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**  
18 **PARAGRAPH, IF A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM HAS FEWER THAN 40 ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS,**  
19 **THE COUNTY BOARD MAY, ON BEHALF OF THE ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS, EXPEND NO MORE**  
20 **THAN 10% OF THE FUNDS DISTRIBUTED FOR THE PER PUPIL GRANT, PROVIDED**  
21 **THAT A PLAN IS DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT**  
22 **ENSURES THAT THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION ARE**  
23 **MET AND THE PLAN IS SUBMITTED TO THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION**  
24 **BOARD UNDER § 5–402 OF THIS TITLE.**

25 **(II) SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY**  
26 **TO A PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL UNLESS THE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL CHOOSES**  
27 **TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PLAN.**

28 (4) A local school system may request flexibility in distributing funds  
29 through the Accountability and Implementation Board appeal process under § 5–406 of this  
30 title.

31 9.9–101.

32 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

33 (b) “Community school” means a public school that establishes a set of strategic  
34 partnerships between the school and other community resources that **LEVERAGE SHARED**  
35 **ACCOUNTABILITY, COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND**

1 **AUTHENTIC FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, USING A STUDENT-CENTERED**  
2 **FRAMEWORK** to promote **INCLUSIVE** student achievement, positive learning conditions,  
3 and the well-being of students, families, **EDUCATORS**, and the community [by providing]  
4 **THROUGH A VARIETY OF ENGAGING PRACTICES INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF**  
5 wraparound services.

6 (c) “School–community partnership” means a partnership between a local school  
7 system or an existing public school and a community–based organization or agency for the  
8 purpose of planning and implementing a community school.

9 (d) “Trauma–informed intervention” means a method for understanding and  
10 responding to an individual with symptoms of chronic interpersonal trauma or traumatic  
11 stress.

12 (e) “Wraparound services” means:

13 (1) Extended learning time, including before and after school, weekends,  
14 summer school, and an extended school year;

15 (2) Safe transportation to and from school and off–site **LEARNING**  
16 **OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING** apprenticeship programs;

17 (3) Vision, **HEARING**, and dental care services;

18 (4) Establishing or expanding school–based health center services;

19 (5) Additional social workers, mentors, counselors, **THERAPISTS**,  
20 psychologists, and restorative practice coaches;

21 (6) Enhancing physical wellness, including providing healthy food for  
22 in–school and out–of–school time and linkages to community providers;

23 (7) Enhancing behavioral health services, including access to mental  
24 health practitioners and providing professional development to school staff to provide  
25 trauma–informed interventions;

26 (8) Providing family and community engagement and supports, including  
27 informing parents of academic course offerings, language classes, workforce development  
28 training, opportunities for children, and available social services as well as educating  
29 families on how to monitor a child’s learning;

30 (9) Establishing and enhancing linkages to Judy Centers and other early  
31 education programs that feed into the school;

32 (10) Enhancing student enrichment experiences, including educational field  
33 trips, partnerships, and programs with museums, arts organizations, and cultural

1 institutions;

2 (11) Improving student attendance;

3 (12) Improving the learning environment at the school; and

4 (13) Any professional development for teachers and school staff to quickly  
5 identify students who are in need of these resources.

6 9.9–102.

7 The purpose of a community school is to help students and families overcome the  
8 in-school and out-of-school barriers that prevent children from learning and succeeding  
9 over the course of their lives by having an integrated focus on academics, health and social  
10 services, youth and community development, and **AUTHENTIC** family and community  
11 engagement.

12 9.9–103.

13 (a) There are community schools in the State.

14 (b) A community school shall:

15 (1) Promote active family and community engagement, including  
16 educational opportunities for adults and family members of students at the school who live  
17 in the neighborhood of the school;

18 (2) Have [a] **AT LEAST ONE** community school coordinator, as described  
19 under § 9.9–104 of this title;

20 (3) [Promote] **IMPLEMENT, IN A MANNER RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS**  
21 **ASSESSMENT REQUIRED UNDER § 9.9–104 OF THIS TITLE**, expanded and enriched  
22 learning time and opportunities provided after school, during weekends, and in the summer  
23 that emphasize mastering 21st-century skills through practical learning opportunities and  
24 community problem-solving;

25 (4) [Promote] **IMPLEMENT** collaborative leadership and  
26 **ACCOUNTABILITY** practices that empower parents, students, teachers, principals, and  
27 community partners to build a culture of professional learning, collective trust, and shared  
28 responsibility using strategies such as site-based leadership teams and teacher learning  
29 communities;

30 (5) Have a parent teacher organization or a school family council; and

31 (6) Have a community school leadership team, **INCLUDING MEMBERS**  
32 **WHO REPRESENT STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND EDUCATORS.**



1 (c) (1) There shall be a Director of Community Schools in the Department.

2 (2) The Director of Community Schools in the Department shall coordinate  
3 professional development for community school coordinators at each community school.

4 (3) **(I) THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS SHALL CREATE A  
5 COMMON NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOL THAT EACH COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
6 COORDINATOR MAY USE IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
7 REQUIRED UNDER § 9.9–104 OF THIS TITLE.**

8 **(II) THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS SHALL CONSULT  
9 WITH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS’  
10 LEADERSHIP TEAMS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE CORRECT CONTENT TO INCLUDE  
11 IN THE COMMON NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOL.**

12 (4) In addition to the funding provided for the Director of Community  
13 Schools position in the Department, the Governor may include in the annual budget bill an  
14 appropriation of at least \$100,000 to the Department for the Director of Community Schools  
15 to provide training and technical assistance to community schools and for additional staff.

16 9.9–104.

17 (a) (1) A community school shall have an experienced and qualified  
18 community school coordinator who:

19 (i) Is hired at the appropriate administrative level;

20 (ii) Understands, respects, and demonstrates a high degree of  
21 cultural awareness of and competency in the diversity in the community and in  
22 cross-cultural practice with stakeholders; and

23 (iii) May be employed by the school district.

24 (2) A community school coordinator may be a social worker.

25 (b) (1) A community school coordinator shall be responsible for:

26 (i) Establishing a community school;

27 (ii) Completing an assessment of the needs of the students in the  
28 school for appropriate wraparound services to enhance the success of all students in the  
29 school;

30 (iii) Developing an implementation plan based on the assessment of  
31 needs for the community school, in cooperation with other interested stakeholders; and

1 (iv) Coordinating support programs that address out-of-school  
2 learning barriers for students and families, including:

- 3 1. Wraparound services; and
- 4 2. As appropriate:
  - 5 A. Tutoring;
  - 6 B. English language learner courses;
  - 7 C. Early childhood development and parenting classes;
  - 8 D. College and career advising;
  - 9 E. Employment opportunities;
  - 10 F. Citizenship education;
  - 11 G. Food pantries; and
  - 12 H. School-based behavioral and physical health services.

13 (2) The needs assessment completed under this subsection shall:

14 (i) Be completed in collaboration with:

- 15 1. The principal;
- 16 2. A school health care practitioner; [and]
- 17 3. A parent teacher organization or a school council; AND
- 18 4. **MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS'**

19 **LEADERSHIP TEAMS;**

20 (ii) Include an assessment of the physical, behavioral, [and] mental,  
21 **SOCIAL, AND EMOTIONAL** health needs and wraparound service needs of students, their  
22 families, and their communities; [and]

23 (iii) **BE COMPLETED USING THE COMMON NEEDS ASSESSMENT**  
24 **TOOL DEVELOPED BY THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS UNDER § 9.9-103**  
25 **OF THIS TITLE, WHEN THE TOOL IS AVAILABLE;**

26 (IV) Be submitted to the Department and the local school system

1 within 1 year of receiving a personnel grant under § 5–223 of this article or within 1 year  
2 of becoming a community school; AND

3 (V) BE PUBLISHED ONLINE AFTER IT IS APPROVED BY THE  
4 DEPARTMENT.

5 (3) The implementation plan completed under this subsection shall  
6 include:

7 (i) A strategy for providing wraparound services to address the  
8 needs of the students, their families, and their communities, building on and strengthening  
9 community resources near the school;

10 (ii) Inclusion, if possible and practicable, of community partners in  
11 geographic proximity to the school that can assist in meeting the needs identified in the  
12 assessment;

13 (iii) Ensure that time is made available to train staff on the supports  
14 available, the need for the supports, and how to engage with the community schools  
15 coordinator to access these supports; and

16 (iv) Develop strategies to maximize external non–State or non–local  
17 education funding.

18 (4) (i) The implementation plan shall be submitted to the local school  
19 system for approval within 1 year of completion of the needs assessment.

20 (ii) After the implementation plan is approved by the local school  
21 system it shall be submitted to the Department FOR APPROVAL.

22 (III) THE DEPARTMENT MAY MODIFY THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
23 BEFORE GRANTING APPROVAL.

24 (5) (I) A COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COORDINATOR SHALL REVIEW THE  
25 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 3 YEARS TO DETERMINE WHETHER  
26 THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL IS MEETING STUDENTS’ NEEDS.

27 (II) A COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COORDINATOR SHALL ALTER THE  
28 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, USING THE COMMON NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOL, AND THE  
29 PROVISION OF WRAPAROUND SERVICES TO ADDRESS CHANGES IN STUDENTS’  
30 NEEDS.

31 (III) AN UPDATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN SHALL BE  
32 SUBMITTED TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR APPROVAL.

1                   **(IV) AFTER AN UPDATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN IS APPROVED,**  
2 **IT SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL.**

3                   **(V) THE DEPARTMENT MAY MODIFY THE UPDATED**  
4 **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN BEFORE GRANTING APPROVAL.**

5 9.9–106.

6           (a) This section does not apply to a community school that receives funding under  
7 § 5–223 of this article.

8           (b) A local school system shall review and approve a community school.

9           (c) A community school may not be implemented without the approval of a local  
10 school system.

11           (d) Local governments are expected to demonstrate support for a community  
12 school through meaningful partnerships, **THE ADOPTION OF SUPPORTIVE POLICY**, and  
13 **[support] ASSISTANCE** that is supplemental to and does not supplant existing efforts.

14           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
15 1, 2024.