

Chapter 336

(House Bill 1082)

AN ACT concerning

**Blueprint for Maryland's Future Implementation – Funding and Independent
~~Evaluation Alterations for Implementation Coordinators~~**

FOR the purpose of requiring, ~~for certain fiscal years,~~ each county board of education to provide for the salary and benefits of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future implementation coordinator in the county; requiring the funding for the salary and benefits of the implementation coordinator to be paid for by the State and the county in a certain proportion; ~~altering the dates by which the entity contracted by the Accountability and Implementation Board to perform an independent evaluation of the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is required to report to the Board and the Board is required to report to the Governor and the General Assembly; altering certain funding requirements under certain circumstances;~~ and generally relating to the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Education

Section 5-404(b)(2) ~~and 5-410(a) and (b)~~

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 5-404(h) ~~and 5-410(e) and (d)~~

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~~~Chapter 36 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2021~~~~Section 16(d) through (f)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

5-404.

(b) (2) State and local government units responsible for implementing an element of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future shall develop implementation plans consistent with the Comprehensive Implementation Plan that describe the goals, objectives, and strategies that will be used to improve student achievement and meet the

Blueprint for Maryland's Future recommendations for each segment of the student population.

(h) **(1)** For each ~~of fiscal years 2022 through 2026~~ **FISCAL YEAR**, the governing body of a county and the local school system jointly shall appoint a single implementation coordinator responsible for the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future by all government units operating in the county.

(2) FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2026 AND 2027 FISCAL YEAR, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL PROVIDE \$150,000 FOR THE SALARY AND BENEFITS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATOR APPOINTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(3) FUNDING FOR THE SALARY AND BENEFITS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATOR PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE PAID BY THE STATE AND THE COUNTY IN THE SAME PROPORTION AS THE FOUNDATION PROGRAM UNDER § 5-213 OF THIS TITLE.

~~5-410.~~

~~(a) In addition to its own assessments and tracking of progress, required under § 5-406 of this subtitle, the Board shall contract with a public or private entity to conduct an independent evaluation of the State's progress in implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and achieving the expected outcomes during the implementation period.~~

~~(b) The independent evaluation shall include an assessment of:~~

~~(1) The use of additional funding to meet the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future;~~

~~(2) Progress toward the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and whether the goals have been achieved; and~~

~~(3) Any recommendations to alter the goals or strategies employed to reach the goals, including new uses for existing funds or additional funding.~~

~~(e) (1) An entity with which the Board contracts for an independent evaluation shall report its results to the Board on or before:~~

~~(i) [October 1, 2024] DECEMBER 1, 2026; and~~

~~(ii) October 1, 2030.~~

~~(2) The Board shall contract for each independent evaluation as soon as practicable.~~

~~(d) (1) (i) On or before [December 1, 2024] **JANUARY 15, 2027**, the Board shall, using the first independent evaluation and its own judgment, report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on whether the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is being implemented as intended and achieving the expected outcomes.~~

~~(ii) The Board's report shall include an assessment of the State's progress towards:~~

~~1. Increasing the number of teachers achieving National Board Certification;~~

~~2. Providing full-day prekindergarten programs for 3- and 4-year olds in accordance with Title 7, Subtitle 1A of this article;~~

~~3. Improving behavioral health services in accordance with § 7-447 of this article; and~~

~~4. Ensuring that students enrolled in public schools meet college and career standards in accordance with § 7-205.1 of this article.~~

~~(iii) The Board's report shall include any legislative or structural corrections necessary to fully implement the Blueprint.~~

~~(2) On or before December 1, 2030, the Board shall report on the results of the final independent evaluation to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.~~

~~(3) The Board's reports under this subsection shall include:~~

~~(i) Practices being used to close achievement gaps between students of different groups listed in § 5-408(a)(2)(i) of this subtitle;~~

~~(ii) Progress made in closing the achievement gaps listed under item (i) of this paragraph; and~~

~~(iii) Assessments of student outcomes listed under § 5-408(a)(2)(ii) of this subtitle, disaggregated by race, income, ethnicity, and gender.~~

~~Chapter 36 of the Acts of 2021~~

~~SECTION 16. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:~~

~~(d) In the independent evaluation and report to be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before [December 1, 2024] **JANUARY 15, 2027**, as required under § 5-110(d)(1) of the Education Article as enacted by this Act, the Accountability and Implementation Board shall report whether the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is being implemented as intended and is achieving expected outcomes.~~

~~(e) (1) If the Accountability and Implementation Board does not report that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is being implemented as intended and is achieving expected outcomes in accordance with subsection (d) of this section, then:~~

~~(i) notwithstanding any other provision of law, per pupil increases in major education aid required under this Act for the fiscal year [2026] **2028** and each year thereafter shall be limited to the rate of inflation, as defined by § 5-201(h) of the Education Article as enacted by this Act;~~

~~(ii) notwithstanding any other provision of law, any additional funding increases required under this Act shall be limited to the rate of inflation as defined in § 5-201(h) of the Education Article as enacted by this Act; and~~

~~(iii) subject to subsection (f) of this section and notwithstanding any other provision of law, local school systems are not required to meet the additional requirements of this Act that begin in fiscal year [2026] **2028** and each fiscal year thereafter.~~

~~(2) If the Accountability and Implementation Board reports that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is not being implemented as intended and is not achieving expected outcomes, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the General Assembly shall take immediate action to adjust the formula and policies under this Act to achieve the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future in order to fulfill the General Assembly's commitment to provide the resources, supports, and funding to fully implement the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.~~

~~(f) A local school system shall continue to fund the requirements of this Act in effect prior to fiscal year [2026] **2028**.~~

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

Approved by the Governor, April 25, 2024.