

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 923
Ways and Means

(Delegate Griffith)

State Department of Education - Study on Transfer and Awarding of Advanced
Placement Course Credits and Military Students

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in consultation with local boards of education and local superintendents of schools, including the Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, to conduct a study on the transfer and awarding of credits by local school systems in the State for successful completion of an Advanced Placement (AP) course by a military student while enrolled in a high school in another State. MSDE must report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by July 1, 2025. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024, and terminates June 30, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MSDE advises that it can conduct the required study using existing resources as the topic of the study is covered by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (compact), as discussed below. To the extent additional staff resources are needed to conduct the study, staff resources may be directed away from current projects.

Local Effect: Local boards of education and local superintendents can consult with MSDE as needed using existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The study must:

- examine whether, and to what extent, a military student who completes and was awarded credit for an AP course while enrolled in a high school in another state is able to transfer and receive credit from a local school system in the State for the AP course;
- identify barriers in the State and local school systems preventing military students from receiving appropriate or equivalent credit for successfully completed AP courses, as specified;
- collect disaggregated data on military students seeking AP credit transfer in Maryland, including the number of affected students, completed AP courses, and the type and amount of credit received from the local school system, as specified; and
- make recommendations on (1) removing barriers in the State and local school systems for awarding appropriate credit and (2) best practices for local school systems to award the most appropriate and equivalent credit to military students for the previous successful completion of AP courses while enrolled in a high school in another state.

Current Law: The compact ensures the uniform treatment of military children transferring between states. It was developed by the Council of State Governments' National Center for Interstate Compacts (Interstate Compact), the U.S. Department of Defense, national associations, federal and state officials, the department of education of each state, school administrators, and military families. All states and the District of Columbia are members of the Interstate Compact. Maryland adopted the compact as Chapters 501 of 502 of 2009 (Education Article § 7-1303). As a member of the compact, Maryland and all states must abide by its provisions.

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) is the national organization leading the work on educational opportunities for military children. The Interstate Compact operates under rules that were adopted by the compact and each state. Each state is represented on the MIC3. The Maryland Commissioner is also chair of the MIC3 Rules Committee and works to ensure that the rules of the compact are followed.

One provision of the compact is Course Placement. "When a student transfers before or during the school year, the receiving school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational courses based on the student's enrollment in the sending state school. Continuing the student's academic program from the previous school and promoting placement in academically and career challenging courses should be paramount when

considering placement...” Article V, Section A.1. Based on this provision the Military Interstate Compact Commission advises states that “a receiving state school is not allowed to withdraw credit and corresponding grades previously awarded for courses completed in the sending state public school.”

Under the Interstate Compact for Military Children, when a military student transfers into a Maryland high school, the receiving high school must accept credits awarded in the student’s previous school. This includes AP credits. The fact that AP standards are universal, and courses/curriculum must be audited and approved by the College Board prior to a course being designated and offered as an AP course, makes the transfer of credits nationally very straightforward.

Additional Comments: In Maryland, all local school systems have a point of contact for military families. In addition, each military installation in Maryland has a School Liaison Officer (SLO), who assists military families in addressing any questions about school transfers. MSDE supports local school systems and SLOs to ensure that the local school systems and SLOs are aware of and understand the compact provisions.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2024
km/mcr

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

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