

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 519  
Ways and Means

(Delegates M. Morgan and T. Morgan)

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**St. Mary's County - Board of Education - Civil Rights Data Collection and Reporting**

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This bill requires the St. Mary’s County Board of Education to collect and update the data required for the biennial federal Civil Rights Data Collection Survey on an annual basis. The county board must also collect other specified data for each public school in the county and each school bus transporting student in the county. By February 26 of each year, the county board must submit a report of the data collected to the members of the St. Mary’s County Delegation and the St. Mary’s County Commissioners. Additionally, the county board must post a copy of the report on the board’s website in a prominent location with a factually descriptive heading that accurately represents the information contained in the post. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** St. Mary’s County expenditures increase by an estimated \$100,000 annually beginning in FY 2025 to hire additional staff to track and report the required data. St. Mary’s County expenditures further increase by an estimated \$50,000 in FY 2025 to make software modifications required to track additional information. County revenues are not affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The St. Mary's County Board of Education must collect data on (1) the total number of reportable incidents that occurred on school buses; (2) the total number of drug-related incidents; (3) the total number of times an opioid antagonist medication was administered, including Narcan or naloxone; and (4) the total number of times an ambulance service was used.

**Current Law:** The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) annually publishes statewide [data on suspensions, expulsion, and health related exclusions](#) in Maryland public schools. This data includes information on suspension or expulsion related to drugs or controlled substances. MSDE also annually publishes [data on arrests in Maryland public schools](#), including breakouts by county.

### *Civil Rights Data Collection Survey*

According to the U.S. Department of Education, The [Civil Rights Data Collection Survey](#) is a federally mandated survey of all public schools and school districts in the United States (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico). The purpose of the survey is to obtain data and information on equal educational opportunity at public schools. The 2020-2021 survey collected data on a variety of topics including enrollment and student characteristics, teachers and school support staff, school climate (including student discipline, harassment or bullying, school offenses, school-related arrests, referrals to law enforcement, restraint and seclusion), school and school district characteristics (including distance education enrollment, desegregation plans, civil rights coordinators, and justice facilities), Internet access and devices, and courses and school program offerings.

### *Reportable Offenses*

When a student is arrested for a "reportable offense" or an offense related to the student's membership in a criminal organization, the law enforcement agency making the arrest must notify (1) the local superintendent; (2) the school principal; and (3) if appropriate, the school security officer. The law enforcement agency may also notify the State's Attorney.

A reportable offense is an offense that (1) occurred off school premises; (2) did not occur at an event sponsored by the school; and (3) includes a crime of violence, as specified in current law, and numerous other specified weapons-, drug-, assault-, and theft-related offenses. If a student is removed or excluded from the student's regular school for a reportable offense, the student's attorney (if applicable) must be invited to participate in a conference between the student or the student's parent or guardian and the principal or county superintendent.

Except by order of a juvenile court with good cause shown, information about a student's arrest is confidential and may not be redisclosed, except as specified, and may not be part of the student's permanent educational record. A superintendent may share the information as part of a confidential file with another superintendent or a nonpublic school in the State in which the student has enrolled. The information shared must include information regarding any educational programming and related services provided to the student. The State Board of Education is required to adopt regulations to ensure that information obtained by local superintendents, principals, or school security officers is used only for specified educational purposes and is destroyed when the student graduates, otherwise permanently leaves school, or turns 22 years old, whichever comes first.

**Local Expenditures:** St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) advises that additional staff is needed to track data throughout the school year and develop and submit the annual report. SMCPS estimates that additional staffing costs will total \$100,000 annually. SMCPS further advises that its software systems require upgrades to appropriately capture the additional data required by the bill. SMCPS estimates that information/technology costs associated with the upgrade will total approximately \$50,000.

SMCPS advises that the agency already links to data on student suspensions and arrest data on its [website](#). This analysis therefore assumes St. Mary's County can similarly provide a link to the report required by the bill with existing resources.

SMCPS faces additional operational burdens to coordinate with county emergency medical services to track the number of ambulances that are called to schools on any given day. SMCPS does not centrally track every instance of ambulances called to schools as there are many reasons an ambulance could be called to a school. SMCPS advises schools may call an ambulance for a student who falls on a playground or for a staff member who is experiencing shortness of breath.

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### **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** St. Mary's County; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 5, 2024  
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Analysis by: Michael E. Sousane

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