

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1383

Ways and Means

(Delegate Miller, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

State Board of Education - Online Special Education System - Technical Requirements

This bill requires existing standards adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) for the identification, evaluation, educational placement, and the provision of a free appropriate public education of children in the State who are found to need special education and related services to include minimum functional and technical requirements to ensure optimal performance of the State's online special education system, including the Maryland Online Individualized Education Program (MOIEP) and the Maryland Online Individualized Family Service Plan (MOIFSP). **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and SBE can update specified standards using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that a child with disabilities be provided a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment from birth through the end of the school year in which the student turns 21 years old, in accordance with the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or the Individualized Education Program (IEP) specific to the individual needs of the child. An IFSP is for children with disabilities from birth up to

age 3, and up to age 5, under Maryland's Extended IFSP Option if a parent chooses the option. An IEP is for students with disabilities age 3 through 21. Local school systems are required to make a free appropriate public education available to students with disabilities from age 3 through 21. However, the State, under its supervisory authority required by IDEA, has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that this obligation is met.

An IEP is a written statement for each child with a disability that, among other things, must indicate the present levels of academic achievement and functional performance of a child, measurable academic and functional goals for the child, how the child's progress toward meeting these goals will be measured, and the special education and related services that are to be provided for the child. The parent of a child with a disability is a member of the IEP team that is responsible for developing and reviewing a child's IEP and for revisions to the IEP.

The MOIEP data system houses special education records for participating local school systems and public agencies. It gives MSDE the ability to (1) collect data necessary for operation of the IDEA program in Maryland and (2) produce data submissions required by the U.S. Department of Education. The MOIFSP System is an online platform that facilitates development of IFSPs for early childhood providers, educators, and family members. The system enables users to monitor and review county-level and caseload-level data, aiding in program improvement and instructional decision making.

The MOIEP and MOIFSP systems are both maintained by the Johns Hopkins Center for Technology in Education (JHU/CTE). In collaboration with MSDE, JHU/CTE provides minimum technical and functionality requirements for both systems. These technical requirements are informed by an advisory committee consisting of representatives from each of the user agencies in Maryland and are shared each spring in a statewide meeting for all local school systems, public agencies, and nonpublic special education programs as well as parents and constituents who are members of the Special Education State Advisory Committee.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2025
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