

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 845

(Senator Hettleman)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Ways and Means

**Local Education Agencies - Educator Screening - Educator Identification
Clearinghouse (School Personnel Vetting and Hiring Transparency Act)**

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to register each local school system in Maryland as an associate member of a national membership organization that provides access to the Educator Identification Clearinghouse and pay any applicable fees and dues associated with membership. Each local school system must utilize the clearinghouse through the national membership organization to screen each individual who applies for an educator position beginning July 1, 2025. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Beginning in FY 2026, MSDE general fund expenditures increase by an estimated \$22,300 annually. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	22,300	22,300	22,300	22,300	22,300
Net Effect	(\$22,300)	(\$22,300)	(\$22,300)	(\$22,300)	(\$22,300)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Expenditures decrease minimally for local school systems that currently use the clearinghouse. Local school systems can otherwise screen applicants through the clearinghouse using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Associate membership in the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) may be granted to institutions of higher education, local school systems, schools, organizations, or individuals ineligible for Jurisdictional Membership, as specified. Annual dues for an associate member is \$500. In addition to the membership fees there is a subscription fee based on the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers in the district, as shown in **Exhibit 1**.

Exhibit 1 Local School System Clearinghouse Fee Schedule

# FTE Teachers	Membership Fee	Subscription Fee	Total Annual Fee
< 300	\$500	\$100	\$600
300 - 599	500	200	700
600 - 999	500	300	800
1000 - 1999	500	400	900
2000 - 2999	500	500	1,000
3000 - 3999	500	600	1,100
4000 - 9,999	500	700	1,200
>9,999	500	.12 per FTE teacher	

FTE: full-time equivalent

Source: National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification

State Expenditures: Based on the current NASDTEC fee schedule for local school system associate memberships, general fund expenditures increase by an estimated \$22,289 beginning in fiscal 2026 for MSDE to pay all membership and subscription fees. Future costs depend on the NASDTEC fee schedule and the number of FTE teachers in each of the 24 local school systems each year.

Local Expenditures: Expenditures decrease minimally (less than \$2,000 per school system) for school systems already using NASDTEC, as they will no longer have to pay annual subscription and membership fees. Several local school systems report using the NASDTEC clearinghouse, including Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Frederick County Public Schools, and Montgomery County Public Schools.

Additional Comments: The [NASDTEC Educator Identification Clearinghouse](#) is the national collection point for professional educator discipline actions taken by the 50 states, SB 845/ Page 2

the District of Columbia, U.S. Department of Defense Educational Opportunity schools, and Guam. NASDTEC, through the clearinghouse, maintains a database of all disciplinary actions reported by NASDTEC members and disseminates this information to all participating NASDTEC jurisdictions. The goal of the clearinghouse is to provide each NASDTEC member state/jurisdiction with a notification of an action taken against the certificate/license of an educator by other member states/jurisdictions and in doing so, to protect the interests of children served by the professional education community within the United States and beyond.

Once an educator's misconduct case is final and the results made public, the prosecuting jurisdiction reports to the clearinghouse information on the adverse action taken against a license or certificate, including public reprimands and denials. The clearinghouse organizes the data and makes it accessible to NASDTEC members who can then compare the information to their current lists of licensed educators and applicants. In addition, the clearinghouse enables its members to maintain a comprehensive database, so every licensure applicant in a given jurisdiction can be checked against records in the clearinghouse. While the presence of a name in the database does not necessarily preclude an individual from successfully obtaining a license in a jurisdiction, it does provide the governing agency a safety net enabling officials to review the nature of the adverse action before issuing the certificate or license.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 1025 (Delegate Moon) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; Frederick County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; Wicomico County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2025

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