

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Joint Resolution 5 (Senator Lewis Young)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Elementary and Secondary Education - Curriculum - Importance of Diversity

This joint resolution declares that it is the policy of the State (1) that elementary and secondary education should be provided in a nondiscriminatory, inclusive manner and (2) that curricula taught in elementary and secondary school encompass groups of people that have experienced discrimination, as specified. It further establishes that the State is committed to providing robust civic, cultural, and history education so that its citizens are engaged and informed members of the community. A copy of this resolution must be forwarded to the Department of Legislative Services, the Governor, the Presiding Officers, the President of the State Board of Education, the State Superintendent of Schools, and the presidents of the twenty-four local boards of education.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The resolution generally aligns with current policy and practice.

Local Effect: None. The resolution generally aligns with current policy and practice.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State regulations establish, as a matter of policy and priority that (1) each Maryland public school will provide every student equitable access to the educational rigor, resources, and supports that are designed to maximize students' academic success and social/emotional well-being; (2) each local school system's procedures and practices provide for educational equity and ensure that there are no obstacles to accessing

educational opportunities for any student; and (3) achievement will improve for all Maryland students and achievement gaps will be eliminated.

To those ends, the Maryland State Department of Education must establish systems of structures and supports to promote educational equity and excellence. Further, each local school system must develop an educational equity policy and regulations, to be reviewed every three years, to the goal of providing educational equity to all students. The policies and regulations must meet specified requirements, including, requiring all curriculum and instructional materials to be culturally responsive with a strategic focus on marginalized groups.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HJ 5 (Delegate Fair, *et al.*) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2025
js/mcr

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

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