

SENATE BILL 343

F1
HB 1262/25 – W&M

6lr1036
CF HB 29

By: Senator King

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **County Boards of Education – Post College and Career Readiness**
3 **Pathways – Payment of Costs**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a county board of education to develop and establish income
5 eligibility guidelines and procedures for payment of costs for a certain post college
6 and career readiness pathway, except under certain circumstances; and generally
7 relating to post college and career readiness pathways.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 7-205.1(a) and (c)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Education
15 Section 7-205.1(g)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Education**

21 7-205.1.

22 (a) In this section, “CCR standard” means the college and career readiness
23 standards established under this section.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) A student shall meet the CCR standard when the student meets a standard in English language arts, mathematics, and, when practicable, science that enables the student to be successful in entry level credit bearing courses or postsecondary education training at a State community college.

17 (4) On or before January 1, 2022, the Department shall develop and begin
18 to implement a communication strategy to inform parents, students, educators, and the
19 wider public about the CCR standard developed under this section.

20 (g) (1) Subject to [paragraph] **PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (4)** of this subsection,
21 [beginning in the 2023–2024 school year,] each county board shall provide all students who
22 meet the CCR standard required under subsection (c) of this section with access to the
23 following post college and career readiness (post–CCR) pathways, at no cost to the student
24 or the student’s parents **OR GUARDIANS**, including the cost of any fees:

25 (i) A competitive entry college preparatory program, chosen by the
26 county board, consisting of:

1. The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program:

2. The Cambridge AICE Diploma Program; or

3. A comparable program consisting of Advanced Placement College Board;

31 (ii) A program that allows a student, through an early college
32 program or dual enrollment at a student's high school and an institution of higher
33 education to earn:

1. An associate degree; or

2. At least 60 credits toward a bachelor's degree; and

3. A youth apprenticeship program, under Title 18, Subtitle
18 of this article.

30 (ii) Each student who enrolls in a post-CCR pathway shall remain
31 enrolled in the student's public high school.

35 1. Personal, career, and academic advising; and

4 (iv) Priority for counseling and advising services described under
5 subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph shall be given to students who have not met the CCR
6 standard by the end of 10th grade.

(v) Any high school graduation requirements that a student does not meet by the time the student has completed the assessment required under subsection (d) of this section shall be provided within the post-CCR pathway the student chooses.

18 (5) (i) The State Board shall adopt regulations to carry out this
19 subsection.

20 (ii) The regulations shall include standards that:

1. Guarantee, to the extent practicable, statewide uniformity
in the quality of the post-CCR pathways;

3. Require high school graduation credit to be awarded for
any programs administered in accordance with this subsection.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
28 1, 2026.