

# SENATE BILL 903

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SB 948/25 – EEE

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CF 6lr1524

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By: **Senators Carozza, Salling, Gillion, Hershey, Jennings, and Ready**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Engagement Policies and School Compact**  
3 **(Maryland Public Education Parental Partnership Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring each county board of education to develop a parent and family  
5 engagement policy on or before the start of a certain school year; requiring each  
6 public school in the State to develop a Parent–School Compact beginning in a certain  
7 school year; requiring the State Department of Education to provide certain guidance  
8 and technical assistance to county boards and public schools in developing a certain  
9 parent and family engagement policy and Parent–School Compact; and generally  
10 relating to parent and family engagement in public schools.

11 BY adding to  
12 Article – Education  
13 Section 4–148  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

### Preamble

17 WHEREAS, Parental involvement is a critical component of a high-quality  
18 education and contributes significantly to the academic achievement of students; and

19 WHEREAS, Federal law recognizes the importance of comprehensive parent and  
20 family engagement by requiring that all schools that receive funding through Title I, Part  
21 A of the Every Student Succeeds Act develop a comprehensive plan to engage parents; and

22 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes the myriad benefits of robust parental  
23 engagement and believes that parental engagement is a critical component to the education  
24 of all children in each public school; now, therefore,

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Education**

4 **4-148.**

5 **(A) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**  
6 **ON OR BEFORE THE START OF THE 2027-2028 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH COUNTY BOARD**  
7 **SHALL DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY.**

8 **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**  
9 **IS TO:**

10 **(I) PROVIDE THE PARENTS OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE**  
11 **LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM WITH MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN**  
12 **THE DECISIONS OF THE COUNTY BOARD AND COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT THAT**  
13 **PERTAIN TO THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITHIN THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM;**  
14 **AND**

15 **(II) ASSIST PARENTS AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN COLLABORATING**  
16 **ON THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL.**

17 **(3) THE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY DEVELOPED**  
18 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:**

19 **(I) BE ESTABLISHED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PARENTS OF**  
20 **STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM;**

21 **(II) ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR A PARENT-SCHOOL**  
22 **COMPACT TO BE USED BY EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM IN**  
23 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION,**  
24 **INCLUDING GENERAL PROCEDURAL RULES FOR THE CREATION OF THE COMPACT;**

25 **(III) PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PARENTS SEEKING TO**  
26 **PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARENT-SCHOOL COMPACT,**  
27 **INCLUDING BY PROVIDING TRANSLATION SERVICES AND TRAINING;**

28 **(IV) BUILD CAPACITY IN EACH SCHOOL FOR SUBSTANTIVE**  
29 **PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT, INCLUDING BY PROVIDING TRAINING, MATERIALS, AND**  
30 **SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL STAFF WHO SEEK TO ENGAGE PARENTS;**

4 (VI) PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY, AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR, FOR  
5 PARENTS TO EVALUATE THE POLICY FOR EFFECTIVENESS AND CONTRIBUTE  
6 FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE THE POLICY; AND

7 (VII) BE REVISED AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR TO REMOVE BARRIERS  
8 TO PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF PARENTS SEEKING TO  
9 ASSIST IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN.

10 (4) THE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY SHALL BE  
11 DOCUMENTED IN WRITING AND PUBLISHED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE COUNTY  
12 BOARD.

(B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (6) OF THIS SUBSECTION, BEGINNING IN THE 2028–2029 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL DEVELOP A PARENT–SCHOOL COMPACT.

28 (II) THE WAYS PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPORTING  
29 THEIR STUDENT'S LEARNING AND ACADEMIC PROGRESS, INCLUDING MONITORING  
30 ATTENDANCE, HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE AND COMPLETION, AND PARTICIPATION IN  
31 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

1 ASSIGNED TEACHER OF 4 OR MORE WEEKS HOLDS A CONDITIONAL TEACHING  
2 LICENSE OR IS TEACHING A SUBJECT MATTER FOR WHICH THE TEACHER DOES NOT  
3 HOLD A LICENSE; AND

4 (IV) THE SCHOOL'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL  
5 OPPORTUNITIES FOR ONGOING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN A STUDENT'S PARENTS  
6 AND TEACHERS, INCLUDING, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, IN THE LANGUAGE  
7 THAT THE PARENT SPEAKS:

8 1. ANNUAL PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES;

9 2. FREQUENT REPORTS ON STUDENT ACADEMIC  
10 PROGRESS; AND

11 3. REGULAR OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PARENT TO  
12 MEET WITH SCHOOL STAFF.

13 (3) IN DEVELOPING A COMPACT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
14 SUBSECTION, THE SCHOOL AND PARENTS SHALL ENSURE THE COMPACT:

15 (I) FOLLOWS THE COMPREHENSIVE PARENT AND FAMILY  
16 ENGAGEMENT POLICY DEVELOPED BY THE COUNTY BOARD;

17 (II) IS DEVELOPED USING A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS,  
18 INCLUDING THE COLLECTION AND USE OF INPUT FROM THE SCHOOL AND PARENTS  
19 REGARDING PLANNING, ORGANIZATION, REVIEW, IMPLEMENTATION, DETERMINING  
20 THE INITIAL TERMS, AND AN AMENDMENT PROCESS; AND

21 (III) IS WRITTEN USING PLAIN AND CLEAR LANGUAGE  
22 UNDERSTANDABLE TO ALL PARENTS, INCLUDING, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, IN  
23 THE LANGUAGE THAT PARENTS SPEAK.

24 (4) (I) EACH SCHOOL SHALL CONVENE AN ANNUAL MEETING FOR  
25 PARENTS TO:

26 1. REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE TERMS AND CONTENT OF  
27 THE COMPACT;

28 2. UPDATE PARENTS ON THE SCHOOL'S ACADEMIC  
29 PROGRAMS AND CURRICULUM USED FOR VARIOUS ACADEMIC SUBJECTS,  
30 INCLUDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS TO REVIEW CURRICULAR MATERIALS;  
31 AND

4 (II) DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING, THE SCHOOL SHALL:

10 (III) THE ANNUAL MEETING SHALL:

16 (IV) THE SCHOOL SHALL SEEK TO MAXIMIZE THE  
17 PARTICIPATION OF PARENTS WITH DIVERSE NEEDS IN THE ANNUAL MEETING,  
18 INCLUDING THE PARENTS OF:

## 1. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

## 2. ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS:

### 3. HOMELESS CHILDREN; AND

#### 4. STUDENTS WITH FEDERAL VISAS.

4 (C) (1) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT A  
5 CERTIFICATION THAT THE COUNTY BOARD IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF  
6 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION EACH YEAR.

10 (D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND TECHNICAL  
11 ASSISTANCE TO A COUNTY BOARD OR PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT NEEDS ASSISTANCE IN  
12 IMPLEMENTING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

13 (E) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE  
14 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
16 1, 2026.