

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 800  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Wolek)

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**Education - Behavioral Health and Student Well-Being and Human Flourishing**  
**(Maryland Student Well-Being and Flourishing Act)**

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This bill includes student well-being and human flourishing among the costs that are included in the target per pupil foundation amount (PPFA). Student well-being and human flourishing is a component of (1) evaluations that may be performed by Expert Review Teams; (2) training required for certificated school personnel who have direct contact with students on a regular basis; (3) the student challenges that coordinated community supports partnerships are to address with the support of the Maryland Consortium of Coordinated Community Supports (MCCCS) – including provision of expertise for the development of related best practices; and (4) MCCCS reporting requirements. Grants provided by the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission help to support extracurricular programs promoting student well-being and human flourishing that partnerships must, under the bill, provide. Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) staff must collaborate closely with specified entities to establish ways to leverage and blend funding to support overall student well-being and flourishing in schools and community-based settings. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Though some amount of State funding is shifted toward services related to student well-being and human flourishing, overall State expenditures are not affected. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** Local school system training expenditures may increase, beginning in FY 2027. However, a substantial portion of these training costs may be covered by State grant funding of coordinated community supports partnerships. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## **Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** Student well-being and human flourishing means a student's progress and success along each of the following dimensions of well-being identified by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: social, environmental, physical, emotional, spiritual, occupational, intellectual, and financial well-being. MCCC's membership is expanded by the addition of one individual with expertise in student well-being and human flourishing.

### **Current Law:**

#### *Per Pupil Foundation Amount*

The PPFA, a key component of the foundation formula, includes specified costs associated with implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, behavioral health costs being among these. Increasing annual dollar values for the PPFA are specified in statute through fiscal 2035 and increased by inflation thereafter.

#### *School Personnel Training Regarding Students in Crisis*

Certificated school personnel who have direct contact with students on a regular basis are generally required to complete annual training by a method determined by each county board, in the skills required to (1) understand and respond to youth suicide risk; (2) identify professional resources to help students in crisis; (3) recognize student behavioral health issues; (4) recognize students experiencing trauma or violence out of school and refer students to behavioral health services; and (5) if the school is a community school, support any students needing the services at a community school.

#### *Expert Review Teams*

Under the Expert Review Team Program, expert educators (1) conduct interviews, observe classes, and use other data to analyze the extent to which the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is being implemented and (2) collaborate with school-based faculty and staff and local school system staff to determine reasons why student progress is insufficient and develop recommendations, measures, and strategies to address the issues identified by the Expert Review Team. In the course of its work, an Expert Review Team may evaluate behavioral health services provided in a school and, as needed, recommend corrective actions.

## *Coordinated Community Supports*

Chapter 36 of 2021, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, established MCCC within the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. MCCC must complete certain tasks related to the development of coordinated community supports partnerships to meet student behavioral health needs and other related challenges in a holistic, nonstigmatized, and coordinated manner, including developing a statewide framework for the creation of a coordinated community supports partnership, implementing a related grant program (described below), evaluating a payment reimbursement program for providers, and developing a program for uninsured students. In addition, in consultation with MSDE, the consortium must develop best practices for the creation of a positive classroom for all students.

MCCC is tasked with implementing a grant program for coordinated community supports partnerships and developing a model for expanding available behavioral health services and support to all students through the maximization of public funding. Special funds from the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund support the Coordinated Community Supports Partnership Fund. Chapter 36 required the Governor to appropriate certain minimum funding levels for MCCC's grant program. Annual funding requirements have been altered by subsequent legislation. Senate Bill 284, the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act, includes a provision reducing annual minimum coordinated community supports funding in fiscal 2027 and subsequent years from \$100 million to \$80 million.

**State Fiscal Effect:** Though some amount of State funding is shifted toward services related to student well-being and human flourishing, overall State expenditures are not affected. Annual formula funding for public schools via the PPFA is not altered and the bill does not alter mandated funding for coordinated community supports. To the extent the bill changes current practice, and to the degree that expanding MCCC membership by the addition of one individual increases MCCC costs, this displaces current State funding for other purposes.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Local school system training expenditures may increase due to the requirement to incorporate awareness of student wellness and human flourishing into the local school system's existing responsibility to ensure all certificated staff are trained annually on youth suicide risk and students in crisis. However, the bill requires MCCC report annually on training and technical assistance provided by MCCCs to support student well-being and human flourishing, which suggests that local school system training costs will to a substantial degree be covered by existing State funding levels. Several local school systems advise that no additional expenditures are anticipated under the bill. St. Mary's County Public Schools assumes its personnel costs will increase substantially to hire an additional 25 social workers and behavioral health specialists. The Department of Legislative Services assumes that existing behavioral health staffing levels required to

meet current law behavioral health requirements should largely suffice under the bill as well.

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### **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Frederick County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Wicomico County Public Schools; Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Maryland Department of Health; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 16, 2026  
sj/clb

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