

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1000
Ways and Means

(Delegate McCaskill)

Public Schools - School Mapping Data - Radius of School Grounds

This bill requires that school mapping data produced with funding from the School Mapping Data Program contain site-specific labeling that matches the one-mile radius surrounding the school grounds, including bodies of water. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures may increase, potentially significantly, to expand the school mapping data produced under the School Mapping Data Program, but a reliable estimate is not feasible, as discussed below. The Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) can update mapping standards with existing resources. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: Local school system revenues and expenditures may increase, potentially significantly, to expand the school mapping data produced under the School Mapping Data Program, but a reliable estimate is not feasible, as discussed below.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapters 166 and 167 of 2024 established the School Mapping Data Program in the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) to provide funds to local school systems to produce school mapping data for each public school in the county, including charter schools. Local school systems can apply for funding from the program, and any school mapping data produced with funding from the program must comply with standards

developed by IAC. The Acts further specified minimum requirements for school mapping data, including that it be (1) compatible with software platforms used by the school and public safety agencies that provide emergency services to the school, as specified and (2) be verified for accuracy by a walk-through of the school buildings and grounds.

The fiscal 2026 budget, as enacted, included an appropriation of \$3.0 million for the program.

State/Local Fiscal Effect: MCSS advises that, of the original \$3.0 million appropriation for the School Mapping Data Program, it has awarded \$2.3 million to local school systems, covering 976 schools. This leaves 446 schools without grant funding and \$700,000 in unallocated funds.

MCSS estimates that an additional \$2.0 million is needed to provide grants to the remaining local school systems that did not apply for grants and to enable the 976 schools covered by existing funding to expand the data they collect to include a one-mile radius. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) partially disagrees because the School Mapping Data Program is a discretionary grant program, not a mandate. The bill requires only that local school systems that receive funding include data covering a one-mile radius. Therefore, additional funding is not needed for those school systems that have not or will not apply for funding.

Moreover, it is unclear if current grantees require additional funding to comply with the bill. IAC notes that the bill lacks specificity regarding the additional data that is to be included. It advises that a simple aerial view of the property and surrounding areas can be accomplished with little or no additional cost but adding more specific site details likely requires significant additional effort and expenditures.

Only two local school systems responded to a request for information about the bill's effects. Prince George's County Public Schools says it can incorporate the additional information with its existing grant funding, and Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) advises that it requires \$725,000 in additional funding to incorporate the expanded data. BCPS's estimate hinges on an interpretation of the requirements in current law that the school mapping data produced with grant funds be verified by a walk-through, potentially requiring BCPS to conduct walk-throughs of the entire city to verify the mapping data. However, current law specifies that the walk-throughs must be conducted of "the school buildings and grounds," so it is not clear if the walk-throughs envisioned by BCPS are needed.

In the absence of (1) additional data from local school systems that have received grants; (2) greater specificity regarding the data to be added to school maps; and (3) a clear interpretation of current law regarding the need for walk-throughs, DLS cannot provide a

reliable estimate of any potential increase in State expenditures (and therefore local school system revenues and expenditures) needed to implement the bill. However, based on estimates from MCSS, IAC, and Baltimore City, any such increase may be significant. DLS notes that \$700,000 in unspent grant funds remain available from MCSS but may be insufficient to support compliance with the bill.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Center for School Safety; Interagency Commission on School Construction; Baltimore City Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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me/clb

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