

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

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

Senate Bill 375 (Senator Watson)  
 Education, Energy, and the Environment

**County Boards of Education - Artificial Intelligence Training Program - Requirement**

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to develop or approve an artificial intelligence (AI) training program for members of local boards of education that includes a foundational training as well as continuing annual training. The bill specifies required elements of the training and establishes a timeline in which members of local boards of education must complete the training. MSDE must publish on its website a report of school board members who did not complete the training as required under the bill for the previous year. On or before October 1, 2028, and each October 1 every two years thereafter, MSDE must submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the effectiveness of the AI training program. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$169,100 in FY 2027 which reflect one-time contractual services to develop the training as well as staffing to oversee the training. Future years reflect the salary of a part-time employee to manage the program. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	169,100	61,000	64,000	67,000	70,000
Net Effect	(\$169,100)	(\$61,000)	(\$64,000)	(\$67,000)	(\$70,000)

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease*

**Local Effect:** None. Local boards of education can meet the requirements of the bill with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The foundational training must contain:

- fundamentals of AI, including the capabilities, limitations, and risk of AI;
- AI technology use policy development, including safety and ethical considerations by age and grade level;
- student privacy and data protection laws; and
- AI technology procurement guidelines and oversight.

The continuing annual training must contain a summary of the topics covered in the foundational training as well as developments in AI technology, evolving practices for use in educational settings, and new guidance.

The training program developed or approved by MSDE may be offered by an organization responsible for the professional development and education of members of local boards of education, and may be in person, online, or in a hybrid format.

Within one year after the first day of a local board member's term of office, the board member must complete the foundational AI training. A board member who is in office on the date of enactment of the bill must complete the foundational training on or before June 30, 2027, and the annual training on or before June 30 in subsequent years. On completion of the training, a board member must submit a copy of their certificate of completion to the president of the local board of education on which they serve as well as MSDE; however, a local board of education or MSDE may establish processes to automatically record a board member's completion of the training instead.

### **Current Law:**

#### *Artificial Intelligence*

“Artificial intelligence” means a machine-based system that (1) can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations, or decisions influencing real or virtual environments; (2) uses machine and human-based inputs to perceive real and virtual environments and abstracts those perceptions into models through analysis in an automated manner; and (3) uses model inference to formulate options for information or action.

*Required Trainings for Local Boards of Education*

Current law requires members of local boards of education to complete an antibias training at least once during their term of office. Additionally, chair and vice chair of local boards of education must complete a school leadership training program.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures increase by \$169,053 in fiscal 2027 which reflect one-time contractual services to develop the training (\$115,000) as well as staffing to oversee the training (\$54,053). Future year expenditures, which total \$60,996 in fiscal 2028 and \$70,002 in fiscal 2031, reflect the salary of a part-time employee to manage the program.

*Development of Training*

MSDE expects to hire a vendor to develop the AI training on MSDE’s Canvas Learning Management System, which will allow for members of local boards of education to complete the training online. Accordingly, general fund expenditures increase by approximately \$115,000 starting in fiscal 2027 for one-time costs to pay a contractor to develop the training and ensure it meets all the requirements of the bill.

*AI Coordinator*

While MSDE intends to contract out the development of the training, the department will still require a part-time position to oversee compliance and meet the bill’s requirement for updates to trainings for future years. Accordingly, general fund expenditures increase by \$54,053 in fiscal 2027, which accounts for a 90-day start-up delay from the bill’s July 1, 2026 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one part-time AI Coordinator to update and edit future training materials, report on board member completion of the training, manage logistics, and produce the biennial report on the training as required by the bill. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing expenses.

Position	0.5
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$45,954
Operating Expenses	<u>8,099</u>
<b>Total FY 2027 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$54,053</b>

Future year expenditures reflect a full salary with annual increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

## **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Baltimore City Public Schools; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; Frederick County Public Schools; Wicomico County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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