

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D. State Superintendent of Schools

BILL: House Bill 328 DATE: February 5, 2020

SUBJECT: Discipline Data Collection **COMMITTEE:** Ways & Means

POSITION: Information Only

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EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing information for consideration regarding **House Bill (HB) 328** – *State Department of Education-School Discipline-Data Collection*, which requires the MSDE to make public, in an accessible and disaggregated spreadsheet format, all discipline-related data as a data download on the Maryland Report Card website at the State, local school system, and school levels. All discipline-related data included on the Maryland Report Card website must be disaggregated by grade level, race, ethnicity, special services, and gender and include alternative school programs and public separate day schools. This legislation also requires the MSDE to report on the Maryland Report Card, disaggregated data related to disproportional disciplinary practices.

HB 328 defines the term "high suspending" for elementary and secondary schools and requires the MSDE to report the disproportionality data for any school identified as high suspending and to disaggregate these data by race, ethnicity, disability status, and English language Proficiency. As part of this reporting, HB 328 also requires the MSDE to lower the risk ratio and state comparison thresholds used for identifying action for schools with high disproportionality from 3.0 to 2.0.

Disaggregated student discipline data are currently posted in PDF format on the Maryland Public Schools website. Additionally, in January 2014, COMAR 13A.08.01.21-*Reducing and Eliminating Disproportionate /Discrepant Impact* required the MSDE to develop a method of identifying the presence of school-level discipline disproportionality based on race and students with disabilities. The Maryland Model of discipline disproportionality involves two complimentary measures which are the risk ratio and the state comparison measure. When presented to the State Board of Education in January 2017, the State Board determined that 3.0 would be the threshold for disproportionality in Maryland.

To implement this legislation, the MSDE will need to dedicate additional staff time and resources to design and manage the creation and annual production of accessible data downloads in order to report all discipline related data. Additional staff time and resources to design and manage the reporting on data-related to disproportional disciplinary practices would also be required.

House Bill 328 - State Department of Education-School Discipline-Data Collection House Committee on Ways and Means February 5, 2020

HB 328 requires a change to the existing disproportionality model, including the threshold and further disaggregation of data that is not part of the Maryland Model. In order to develop a new system for reporting on student discipline disproportionality by high suspending schools, the MSDE would need to hire, at a minimum, one FTE Education Program Specialist I in the Office of Accountability to create and maintain this new model and reporting requirement. Significant time and cross-department collaboration would also be required.

The MSDE respectfully requests that this information be considered during deliberation of HB 328. For further information please contact Tiffany Clark at 410-260-6028 or tiffany.clark1@maryland.gov.