

HB 1450.Blueprint deadline extension bill - SENATE

Uploaded by: John Woolums

Position: FAV

BILL: House Bill 1450
TITLE: Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation Plans and Fund - Alterations
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
DATE: March 29, 2022
COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the State's local boards of education, strongly supports House Bill 1450, with amendments to address serious problems with the timing and condition for releasing withheld Blueprint funding, and to adjust timelines for implementing the major reforms to college and career readiness programs.

MABE supports this bill in order to extend dates for the development, adoption, and submission of plans to implement the Blueprint for Maryland's Future; alter the date by which the state criteria to evaluate local implementation plans must be developed; and modify the distribution of revenues to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund. Specifically, the bill:

- Extends the State Implementation Plan deadline from Feb. 15, 2022 to Dec. 1, 2022;
- Extends the MSDE deadline for plan criteria from April 1, 2022 to Sept. 1, 2022;
- Extends the local implementation plan deadline extended from June 15, 2022 to March 15, 2023; and
- Revises the formula for dedicated sales tax revenue to the Blueprint Fund.

In addition to these extensions, MABE is aware of the need for the consideration of additional extensions for implementation timelines for other major programs being developed under the Blueprint. Specifically, MABE joins local school systems and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to request that the committee amend House Bill 1450 so that it will adjust Section 7-205.1(e)(1)(i) to replace "2022-2023" with "2024-2025" and Section 7-205.1(g)(1) to replace "2023-2024" with "2024-2025." These amendments reflect the need to align the massive amount of work required to develop and implement the array of college and career readiness programs through the criteria established by MSDE, the oversight of the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB), and the operational, programming, and instructional reforms necessary in each local school systems.

In addition, MABE requests amendments to the provisions governing the withholding of increased state Blueprint funding to align with the extended date for the completion of local implementation plans. House Bill 1450's proposed timeline change makes the due date for local school systems' initial implementation plans March 15, 2023. Due to the automatic withholding language in the law, local school systems would have to operate 9 months of the fiscal year without access to 25% of the increase in State funding over the prior year. Withholding access to these funds would undermine the intent of the Blueprint. Therefore, MABE joins local school systems and MSDE to request that amendments to adjust Section 5-405(b) and (c) to replace "2023" with "2024" and to remove Section 5-405(c)(1).

Local boards are committed to the success of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act and believes the provisions of this bill are consistent achieving that success. MABE led the advocacy effort to create the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education precisely so that an updated adequacy study and other funding and accountability issues could be debated and transformed into legislation to update and improve Maryland's school finance system. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act represents the culmination of these efforts.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on House Bill 1450 with the amendments described above in order to ensure a smooth and successful launch to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act.

3-29 NSHB 1450 Blueprint for Maryland's Future - I

Uploaded by: Lois Hybl

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

HB 1450 Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation Plans and Fund - Alterations

POSITION: Support

BY: Nancy Soreng, President

Date: March 29, 2022

The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) supported HB 1300/SB 1000 Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation and advocated vigorously for the override of the Governor's veto of this very important legislation. We also supported SB 965, Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Revisions, with amendments in 2021.

The proposed legislation adjusts the Blueprint's implementation plan to better align with the formation of the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB); extends the dates for when the AIB must adopt a Comprehensive Implementation Plan (CIP) for the Blueprint and extends the dates for when the plans should be approved; and dedicates a certain percentage of sales and use tax revenues to the Blueprint's funding.

LWVMD regrets the delays in implementation caused by the veto of the original Blueprint bill and delays in appointing and funding the AIB. However, our support for adequate and equitable funding of public education leads us to support SB 1450, thus insuring faithful implementation of the Blueprint.

The League urges the committee to give a favorable report to HB 1450.

HB1450-FAV-DTMG-3-29-22.pdf

Uploaded by: Olivia Bartlett

Position: FAV



Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Testimony on: HB1450 – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future — Implementation Plans and Fund — Alterations

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 29, 2022

Bill Contact: Delegate Maggie McIntosh

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 3000 members who live in a wide range of communities in Montgomery County and several nearby jurisdictions. DTMG supports legislation and activities that improve public education and career opportunities and promote equity in all our diverse communities. DTMG is an active member of Strong Schools Maryland and supports full implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. DTMG strongly supports HB1450 so there will not be further delays in implementing the Blueprint fully and faithfully in every school district across the state.

With the delay in the formation and appointment of members to the Blueprint’s Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB), some of the deadlines imposed by the current Act could not be met. New governing statutory deadlines need to be developed to mandate prompt action by the AIB to issue statewide implementation requirements and for local school boards subsequently to formulate and issue conforming county-specific implementation plans.

HB1450 will establish new, realistic implementation timelines that are based on recommendations from the AIB. Additionally, HB1450 will adjust the state revenue allocation for the Blueprint Fund to support long term, sustainable funding of public education in Maryland.

HB1450 requires urgent action. Implementation of the Blueprint has already been delayed, and the students and teachers of Maryland need the implementation guidance and resources as soon as possible. We strongly urge you to move HB1450 quickly through the Committee and on to a Floor vote so that the promise of the Blueprint can finally be delivered to every Maryland classroom.

DTMG therefore strongly supports HB1450 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett
Co-lead, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team
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240-751-5599

Senate Hearing_House Bill 1450_Favorable.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Shamoyia Gardiner

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Testimony to the Budget and Taxation Committee

In support of

House Bill 1450: Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation Plans and Fund – Alterations

March 29, 2022

Strong Schools Maryland urges a speedy, favorable vote on House Bill Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation Plans and Fund – Alterations

When the Maryland General Assembly overrode Governor Hogan's unnecessary 2020 veto of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, the body quickly followed up by passing House Bill 1372 (Blueprint 2.0) which updated implementation timelines in response to the veto and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic's impact on school communities. We were appreciative of the legislature's commitment to the Blueprint vision—that of a world-class system of public schools for our state's students—and see the passage of House Bill 1450 (Blueprint 3.0, if you will) as a continued demonstration of that commitment.

The bill will:

- Shift the due date of the statewide Blueprint Comprehensive Implementation Plan to December 1, 2022. This would give the Blueprint Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) sufficient time to evaluate the status of implementation, engage and align with those who will implement the various provisions of this once-in-a-generation effort, and meaningfully engage the public in the deliberative process of plan development.
 - While this does represent a 9 month delay in the formalization of accountability metrics and local planning, we believe it is necessary for the AIB to take time to develop the best implementation plan they are capable of constructing, particularly given the various unnecessary delays they've already experienced in appointment, funding, staffing, and numerous other aspects of creating a brand-new state level agency.
- Shift the due date for the development of local implementation plan approval criteria to September 1, 2022. This will allow the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) sufficient time to engage locals, the AIB, and the public as planning continues throughout this calendar year.
- Shift the due date for local implementation plans to March 15, 2023. This, beyond offering additional time for local actors to develop their own plans, allows for communication, training, and mutual buy-in to occur amongst state and local Blueprint actors before hard measures of accountability are finalized. This is a necessary approach to take, as it is unlikely anyone truly understands the demands of local school system administration, governance, or day-to-day school operations better than the practitioners, students, and families themselves.
 - We hope to see local education agencies and all Blueprint actors take advantage of this additional time to engage students, families, and educators in the co-creation of Blueprint implementation plans.
- Modifies revenue streams for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future special fund.

Strong Schools Maryland looks forward to the full-scale, long-term implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and its sustainable funding at the state and levels for the duration of implementation. These last several years have been a labor of love and investment in our collective future for our

organizational staff, supporters, and Teams of 10 across the state, as we know it has been for many of you. In that spirit, we urge a fast, favorable vote on House Bill 1450, for the future.

If you have questions or requests for additional information, you can email:

Shamoyia Gardiner
Executive Director
shamoyia@strongschoolsmaryland.org

HB1450 - Blueprint for Maryland's Future - IMpleme

Uploaded by: Dawana Sterrette

Position: FWA

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Johnette A. Richardson
Chair, Baltimore City Board
of School Commissioners

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

**Testimony of the
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
Support with Amendments
House Bill 1450
Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation Plans Fund- Alterations**

March 29, 2022

The Baltimore City Public School System (City Schools) supports House Bill 1450 with amendments to ensure strategic implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

City Schools is deeply appreciative of the work of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, in conjunction with the efforts of the Maryland General Assembly, which led to the passage of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future – an historic education reform package that the state is only now beginning to implement. The Blueprint will ultimately provide \$4 billion per year to public education overall, while directing significantly increased support to schools serving children in communities with high concentrations of poverty.

As drafted, HB 1450 seeks to update certain Blueprint timelines by altering plan due dates to reflect the realities of implementation. City Schools supports the proposed timeline adjustments, but respectfully requests the following amendments:

- **Extend the College and Career Readiness Implementation Timeline**

The Blueprint requires school districts to develop two College and Career Readiness (CCR) pathways to best serve students – “post-CCR pathways” for students who have successfully demonstrated college and career readiness by the end of tenth grade, and “CCR support pathways” for those who have not.

While current law requires the post-CCR pathways to be implemented by the 2022- 23 school year and the CCR support pathways to be implemented by the 2023-24 school year, we respectfully request that both timelines be extended by one year to the 2023-24 and 2024-2025 school years, respectively.

City Schools believes extension of this timeline is critical to ensuring local school systems have the appropriate time necessary to develop significant new structures, course offerings, staffing and training, as well as individualized support plans for what is expected to be large numbers of students in order to meet the Blueprint's requirements. The expanded timeline will also allow for more purposeful employer and community engagement, as well as the development of necessary partnerships with local institutions of higher education.

- **Adjust the Automatic Withholding of Funds Language**

City Schools respectfully requests the committee's consideration in ensuring that the timeline changes proposed in HB 1450 do not inadvertently lead to a delay in the receipt of critical implementation funds by school districts. Specifically, we request the following modifications:

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Johnette A. Richardson
Chair, Baltimore City Board
of School Commissioners

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

The Blueprint requires a portion of the increase in the State share of major education aid to be automatically withheld from local school systems in FY23 until the AIB determines that the school district has received approval for its initial implementation plan. However, the timeline changes proposed in HB 1450 will delay the AIB's approval of school systems' initial implementation plans until well into the second half of FY23. **As such, we respectfully request that this requirement be adjusted from FY23 to FY24.**

Similarly, the Blueprint also requires MSDE to automatically withhold 25% of the increase in the State share of major education aid over the amount provided in the current fiscal year. We believe this may have been an inadvertent drafting error, as alternate sections of the bill define the amount to be withheld as a portion of the increase over the current fiscal year. **As such, we respectfully request that HB 1450 be amended to replace "current" with "prior".**

City Schools is committed to ensuring successful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. With these amendments, HB 1450 will help local school districts implement the Blueprint's requirements with fidelity. For all these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable with amendments committee report.

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HB1450 Blueprint Alterations 3.29.22.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeanette Ortiz

Position: FWA



HB1450 BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND'S FUTURE - IMPLEMENTATION PLANS AND FUND - ALTERATIONS

March 29, 2022

BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports with amendments **HB1450 Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation Plans and Fund - Alterations**.

AACPS supports the extension of deadlines for the comprehensive implementation plans required by the Blueprint. Such an extension is timely given the new administration at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the fact that the Accountability Implementation Board (AIB) has yet to be fully staffed. Given the current funding stream, the AIB will not be fully staffed until FY 2023.

While supportive, we do recommend amendments that are necessary for the State and school systems to implement the Blueprint. Specifically, AACPS requests that the bill include the recommendations outlined by MSDE regarding the college and career readiness requirements (CCR) and related timelines. For example, existing timelines call for the creation of CCR support pathways – for those students who have not demonstrated college and career readiness – to begin in FY 2023 and the post-CCR pathways to begin in FY 2024. The new timelines outlined by MSDE call for both pathways to begin in FY 2025. This will allow for ample feedback from stakeholders and provide local school systems with sufficient time to adequately plan and implement the Blueprint. AACPS is concerned that failure to provide for these extensions in the existing timelines will result in a lack of data and information necessary to fulfill the requirements established under the law. School districts will, therefore, not have the data necessary to implement the CCR support pathways in FY 2023. This requirement involves the development of new courses, changes to schedules and staffing structures, professional development for teachers, development of new individualized support plans for a large number of students, development of articulation agreements with local institutions of higher education and employers, amongst other things.

AACPS also requests that the timeline regarding the automatic withholding of funds language in the law be delayed as school districts are in critical need of these implementation funds. More specifically, the district requests that the timeline in Sections 5-405(b) and (c) are amended to FY 2024.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** committee report on HB1450.

PSSAM HB1450 Letter of Support.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Patricia Saelens

Position: FWA



BILL:	House Bill 1450	DATE:	March 29, 2022
SUBJECT:	Blueprint for Maryland’s Future -Implementation Plans and Fund -Alterations	COMMITTEE:	Budget and Taxation
POSITION:	Support with Amendments		
CONTACT:	Dr. Patricia Saelens 410-758-2403 extension 127		

The Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM) supports with amendments **House Bill 1450 Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation Plans and Fund - Alterations.**

PSSAM supports the proposed new dates associated with the comprehensive implementation plans required by the Blueprint as written in House Bill 1450. This is necessary because the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) is not yet fully staffed and meeting the current set of deadlines is not possible.

PSSAM respectfully requests to further **adjust the College and Career Readiness Implementation Timeline**. Specifically, we would like to share the challenges associated with the current implementation expectations for the Fiscal Year 2023 and beyond. And thus, we write today to seek an adjustment in the College and Career Readiness Implementation Timeline. The current law, Section 7-205.1 of the Education Article, requires local districts to develop a CCR support pathway for students who have not demonstrated readiness by the end of 10th grade. This has many implications that must be planned for over multiple years.

- Research best practices and then provide the development and implementation of new courses
- Examine various secondary school schedules to determine the best fit for staffing
- Identify qualified staffing for the new courses
- Provide research based professional development for the staff to implement new courses
- Identify funding to support new positions
- Examine data to identify students in need of new courses

The current timeline does not align with local district cycles for course or budget development. Pushing the current timeline through Fiscal Year 2025 would result in well designed courses, qualified and prepared teachers, and the resources to implement the intentions of the Blueprint with fidelity.

PSSAM respectfully requests that HB1450 adjust Sec. 7-205.1(e)(1)(i) to replace “2022-2023” with “2024-2025” and Sec. 7-205.1(g)(1) to replace “2023-2024” with “2024-2025.”

HB1450 Howard Co BOE Testimony 032922 for B&T - BI

Uploaded by: Staff Howard County

Position: FWA



**Board of Education
of Howard County**

Vicky Cutroneo, *Chair*

Antonia Watts, *Vice Chair*

Christina Delmont-Small

Yun Lu, Ph.D.

Jennifer Swickard Mallo

Jolene Mosley

Chao Wu, Ph.D.

Peter J. Banyas
Student Member

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
*Superintendent
Secretary/Treasurer*

**Board of Education of Howard County
Testimony Submitted to the Maryland Senate,
Budget and Taxation Committee
March 29, 2022**

HB1450: FAVORABLE W/AMENDMENTS

**Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation Plans and Fund –
Alterations**

The Board of Education of Howard County (the Board) supports **HB1450 Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation Plans and Fund – Alterations** with amendments to align expectations of achieving a world-class education system with the realities of time constraints involved in making massive shifts in education policy and structured student supports.

HB1450 amends three dates within the existing Blueprint for Maryland's Future statute that govern the implementation plans required under Education Article § 5-404. Specifically:

- The Comprehensive Implementation Plan to be adopted by the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB), which is currently due February 15, 2022, would now be due December 1, 2022.
- Criteria to be developed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to be used in their review and approval of local school system implementation plans, which are currently due no later than April 1, 2022, would now be due by September 1, 2022.
- Local School System Implementation Plans to be submitted to the Accountability and Implementation Board for approval, which are currently due no later than June 15, 2022, would now be due March 14, 2023.

These changes, recommended by the AIB following delays in appointments and staffing, would benefit local school systems by giving additional time to understand and plan for guidance and direction from our oversight authorities when developing our local implementation plan.

No additional dates or timelines, however, that are codified throughout the Blueprint, including the timeline for local school systems to develop and implement College and Career Readiness (CCR) standards, supports and pathways, have been altered in the amendments proposed within HB1450. In presentations to the AIB, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has underscored the importance of shifting two particular timelines – moving the requirements to develop and implement post-CCR pathways from school year 2023-2024 to 2024-2025, and moving the requirements to develop and implement supports for students who have not demonstrated CCR from school year 2022-2023 to 2024-2025. While the one

year shift in the program of study for students who have not met CCR to school year 2023-2024 amended into HB1450 prior to passage by the House is a welcome addition to the bill, the Board continues to advocate for the preceding proposed dates.

The goal of having all students college and career ready by 10th grade is foundational to Blueprint outcomes. It is important that MSDE has the opportunity to complete thorough studies of the appropriate and equitable measures for post-secondary success. Moreover, MSDE and local school systems need adequate planning time to make a multitude of staffing, professional development, curriculum, and key partnership changes to ensure Blueprint expectations for student supports and expanded post-CCR pathways are met with fidelity.

For these reasons, we urge a FAVORABLE report of HB1450 from this Committee with additional timeline changes to align those tasks which could benefit from the guidance of the AIB and MSDE with this delayed implementation planning, specifically those that have been proposed by MSDE to revamp and restructure CCR standards for the Blueprint.

MSDE Senate Testimony_ HB1450 Blueprint for Maryla

Uploaded by: Yousuf Ahmad

Position: FWA



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

BILL: House Bill 1450 **DATE:** March 29, 2022

SUBJECT: Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation Plans and Fund - Alterations **COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation

POSITION: Favorable with Amendments

CONTACT: Ary Amerikaner, 410-767-0090
ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov

EXPLANATION:

Thank you for the opportunity to work collaboratively this session on behalf of all students in the State of Maryland. I am writing today to ask that HB1450 be modified to include additional changes to support high quality Blueprint implementation in Fiscal Year 2023 and beyond. While the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is meeting the deadlines outlined in the Blueprint, these proposed changes are smart policy and reflect a strategic approach to ensure high quality implementation:

1. **Adjust the College and Career Readiness Implementation Timeline.** Current law (Section 7-205.1 of the Education Article) requires local educational agencies to develop and implement (1) for students who have demonstrated College and Career Readiness (CCR), "post-CCR pathways," and (2) for students who have not demonstrated College and Career Readiness by the end of 10th grade, programs of support or "CCR support pathways." The post-CCR pathways are to be implemented by the 2023-24 school year and the CCR support pathways are to be implemented by the 2022-23 school year.

This is a massive workstream that will require local school systems to - at a minimum - develop new courses and reimagine schedules and staffing structures, train teachers, develop new individualized support plans for a large number of students, develop articulation agreements with local institutions of higher education and employers, and more. I want to call your attention to a few passages from the 2019 Interim Report of the Kirwan Commission that detail the vision of the supports to students:

Students in middle and high school who are not progressing to meet the CCR standard by the end of the tenth grade do not need "more of the same." Instead, they require alternative approaches that are tailored to their specific circumstances and needs...

The State and school districts must develop a set of programs and curriculum options specially designed to support and advance students who have not achieved CCR by the end of grade 10. The goal is to equip them to achieve CCR by the end of grade 12. Though aimed at the same standard, these options will be much more applied, experiential, and "hands on," including curriculum focused on the arts. They should yield courses and curricula that are project- and problem-based and highly engaging. (Consultants from countries that have built highly engaging curriculum of this sort may be engaged to

help develop this curriculum.) Students will not be required to retake the courses in which they have not succeeded. It will in that sense not be a remedial curriculum at all...

Any student who has not achieved CCR by the end of tenth grade will be assigned a teacher who acts as a case manager for that student, with overall responsibility for the success of that student, supported by all the other teachers of that student, assembled as a team under the leadership of the cognizant teacher to monitor that student's progress and do whatever is needed to get and keep that student on track, including visits to the student's parents or guardian and collaboration with public and private agencies providing various forms of support to that student and his or her family. Students who are struggling in schools benefit greatly from individual attention from their teachers and other adults...

Students who have not achieved CCR by the end of grade 10 will be given priority access to a greatly enhanced career counseling system designed in part to make the connection between the hopes they have for themselves and what they need to achieve in school in order to achieve those hopes.

While we are appreciative of the timeline change already included in HB1450 that would give one additional year for the development of CCR support pathways, MSDE believes the timeline should be expanded by an additional year to allow for the level of strategic planning and community engagement that local school systems must conduct to do this well. An expanded time period will allow MSDE to give hands-on guidance and support to increase the likelihood this work is done well across the state. Finally, an expanded timeline will allow the implementation of an updated CCR standard informed by the results of the two studies MSDE is conducting on the most appropriate measures of College and Career Readiness. Amending the timeline will allow the first year of CCR pathway implementation to be based upon factors in addition to standardized test scores, including promising alternatives such as, for example, Grade Point Averages. Best in class studies have validated that these other factors are better predictors of success in college and less biased than standardized tests, especially for historically disadvantaged students. It is especially important to evolve the definition of the CCR standard in this way to avoid unnecessarily tracking historically disadvantaged students into remedial and low-level pathways in the first year of implementation. **For these reasons, MSDE respectfully requests that the committee amend HB1450 so that it will adjust Sec. 7-205.1(e)(1)(i) to replace “2022-2023” with “2024-2025” and Sec. 7-205.1(g)(1) to replace “2023-2024” with “2024-2025.”**

Current Statute	HB1450 As Drafted	MSDE Proposed Amendment
(e) (1) (i) Each county board, in collaboration with the community colleges, shall develop and implement by the 2022-2023 school year a program of study for students who have not met the CCR standard by the end of 10th grade.	(e) (1) (i) Each county board, in collaboration with the community colleges, shall develop and implement by the 2023-2024 school year a program of study for students who have not met the CCR standard by the end of 10th grade.	(e) (1) (i) Each county board, in collaboration with the community colleges, shall develop and implement by the 2024-2025 school year a program of study for students who have not met the CCR standard by the end of 10th grade.
(g)(1) Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, each county board shall provide all students who meet the CCR standard required under subsection (c) of this section with access to the following post college and career readiness (Post-CCR) pathways, at no cost to the student or the student's parents, including the cost of any fees	(g)(1) Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, each county board shall provide all students who meet the CCR standard required under subsection (c) of this section with access to the following post college and career readiness (Post-CCR) pathways, at no cost to the student or the student's parents, including the cost of any fees	(g)(1) Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, each county board shall provide all students who meet the CCR standard required under subsection (c) of this section with access to the following post college and career readiness (Post-CCR) pathways, at no cost to the student or the student's parents, including the cost of any fees.

2. **Adjust the Timeline for Automatic Withholding of Funds Language.** While the MSDE wholeheartedly supports the implementation plan timeline adjustment proposed in HB1450, it is imperative that the timeline changes do not delay districts' receipt of critical implementation funds. With this in mind, the MSDE asks for the following alteration to the bill.

HB 1450's proposed timeline change makes the due date for local school systems' initial implementation plans March 15, 2023. Due to the automatic withholding language in the law, local school districts will have to operate 9 months of the fiscal year without access to 25% of the increase in State aid funding over the prior year. Next year districts are expected to build substantial new Blueprint programs and systems. It is also the first fiscal year in which districts will operate within the new Blueprint State Aid formula, which means the amount of funds to be withheld is significantly higher than it will be in the following year. MSDE estimates that automatic withholding of the 25% increase in State share of major education aid will be \$119,943,503, of which \$79,962,336 would be withheld until after March, 2023. Withholding access to the funds designed to support this work will undermine the intent of the Blueprint. **MSDE respectfully requests that HB1450 adjust Sec. 5-405(b) and (c) to replace "2023" with "2024" and to remove HB1450's proposed Sec. 5-405(c)(1).**

Both changes have been previewed publicly and are based on consultation with local school systems. On January 24, 2022, MSDE gave a [detailed presentation](#) on the College and Career Readiness (CCR) portion of the Blueprint, featuring a need for a change in the timeline at our State Board of Education meeting. On February 14, 2022 and February 28th, 2022, I presented an [overview of Blueprint Implementation](#) with the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB), which previewed both the need for a change in the CCR timeline and the need to ensure that any timeline changes do not lead to a delay in districts receiving critical state funds for education. To maximize student benefit, implementation of the pathways requires strong alignment between the Post-CCR and Support Pathways and for educators to be supported through tailored professional learning. This proposal will allow for MSDE to partner with LEAs on effective implementation and support districts with the technical assistance needed to "Guarantee, to the extent practicable, statewide uniformity in the quality of the post-CCR pathways (§7-205.1(g)(4))."

MSDE wants to ensure that this process is thoughtful and successful, rather than being rushed and resulting in innovations that are poorly planned and ultimately dismissed. As a former chief strategy officer who has worked to successfully transform two large, urban, and majority Title I school districts, I will always push for faster approaches to implementing change. As your State Superintendent of Schools, I do not make this timeline revision proposal lightly. **I strongly urge that you consider these amendments as favorable while deliberating HB1450.**

Sincerely,



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

CC:

Senate President William C. Ferguson IV
Members of the Budget & Taxation Committee