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**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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.