**Mohammed Choudhury**
State Superintendent of Schools

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| **BILL:** | House Bill 985 | **DATE:** | February 25, 2022 |
| **SUBJECT:** | Education - Public High Schools - Financial Literacy Curriculum and Graduation Requirement | **COMMITTEE:** | Ways and Means |
| **POSITION:** | Letter of Information | | |
| **CONTACTS:** | Ary Amerikaner<br>410-767-0090<br>ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov | | |

**EXPLANATION:**

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) respectfully submits this information regarding **House Bill 985 – Education - Public High Schools - Financial Literacy Curriculum and Graduation Requirement**, which would require MSDE and the State Board of Education to develop a half-semester course in financial literacy and require students to complete a course in financial literacy as a high school graduation requirement.

MSDE is supportive of ensuring that all students experience financial literacy education. The Department agrees that financial literacy content identified in HB 985 is important. The State has current financial literacy standards, identified in Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.04.06.. Local school systems are required to provide an instructional program in personal financial literacy in elementary, middle, and high school.

MSDE regularly shares curriculum resources and coordinates professional learning experiences focused on financial literacy content with financial literacy supervisors in all 24 school systems. Annually, MSDE publishes a report describing the implementation of financial literacy in school systems. Additionally, each April, MSDE partners with local school systems and businesses to celebrate Financial Literacy Month.

MSDE registers concerns about the curriculum and high school graduation requirements in this legislation as local school systems update their curriculum in accordance with revised standards and frameworks as a result of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, and as we reimagine the high school experience in Maryland's schools to align with a college and career ready framework.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB 630**. Please contact Ary Amerikaner, at 410-767-0090, or ary.amerikander@maryland.gov, for any additional information.