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HB1287

This past school year, I have seen parents shift away from Government run public schools to the private and home school-based options. Now, Maryland is seeing even greater number of parents the cusp of pulling their children out of public education because of the curriculum.

Fox News ran a segment today, March 8, 2022, summing up this testimony in support of Curriculum Transparency. I agree curriculum should be an open book!

['It should be an open book:' Maryland parents demand access to school curriculum | WBFF \(foxbaltimore.com\)](https://www.fox45.com/story/news/education/2022/03/08/maryland-parents-demand-access-to-school-curriculum-wbfff-foxbaltimore-com/7025211002/)

ALTIMORE COUNTY, Md. (WBFF) — The fight between parents and school districts over curriculum is raging across America. Here in Maryland, many parents are pushing for more transparency when it comes to what their children are learning in school.

Tim Goetze has two children in Baltimore County Public Schools. This fall, his youngest daughter, could be the third. Overall, he says he's happy with the elementary school his children attend. But there's a chance, three enrolled at Pine Grove Elementary, could become none.

"We are on the precipice of pulling our kids out," Goetze told Project Baltimore.

"The curriculum is important. I'd like to see it. I'd like it to be available. It should be available. Public education is funded by the taxpayer. There's no reason for this to be a secret," said Goetze.

Fox45 News filed a public records request with Baltimore County Schools, asking for "lesson plans" and "curriculum" for "K-8" and "9-12 sexuality education" and "lesson plans for Grade 8 American History." BCPS replied to our request saying, "lesson plans are the intellectual property of BCPS and proprietary, we are unable to provide you with copies of these records."

Project Baltimore then filed a similar request with 19 other public school systems in Maryland, asking for "curriculum" and "lesson plans". To date, not a single district has provided a copy. One school system did not respond. Seven districts said they purchased their curriculum from a vendor, it's copyrighted and can't be replicated. Eleven school systems said they could search for the records, but there would be fees ranging from \$800 to "at least \$8,000."

Right now, there are three bills making their way through Annapolis, that would give parents the right to see the curriculum. One of those bills is House Bill 758. It was introduced by Delegate Kathy Szeliga, a Republican who represents Baltimore and Harford Counties.

“This will give parents, family members and tutors access to classroom materials to help our students succeed,” Szeliga said during a legislative committee hearing in February.

House Bill 758 was modeled after a North Carolina law, but in Maryland, there are questions.

“If there were any type of transparency, maximum transparency, it would be in the public school system. This curriculum should be available. It should be an open book, anybody should be allowed to see it, because this is what we’re paying for,” Goetze told Project Baltimore.