



# LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
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March 25, 2024

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Chairman Guy Guzzone,  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Bldg.  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairwoman Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers strong favorable support for **House Bill 200 - Community Schools - Alterations**, which would ensure that school districts with less than 40 community schools that receive funding from the Concentration of Poverty School Grant expend 10% or less of the per public grant on behalf of eligible schools. **This bill is on the 2024 legislative priority agenda of the Black Caucus.**

Currently, if a local system has at least 40 eligible schools or more in the district, they may expend 50% or less of the funds. For school districts with less than 40 eligible schools, they don't have this option. House Bill 200 provides the opportunity for districts with fewer eligible schools to spend funds to coordinate successful community school services.

House Bill 200 clarifies that schools utilizing the per-pupil grant must base their grant spending on the *most recent* needs assessment plan and prioritize funding for the areas of greatest need according to the needs assessment plan. The bill requires the Director of Community Schools in MSDE to create a common needs assessment tool (in consultation with local schools and communities) that community school coordinators can use to complete the needs assessment. These needs assessments must be published online after being approved by MSDE.

This legislation requires community school coordinators to review their implementation plans at least once every 3 years to determine if students' needs are being met.

House Bill 200 has no fiscal effect on the State and local levels. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and AIB can handle the bill's provisions using existing resources.

House Bill 200 addresses the socio-economic barriers that students in Maryland's marginalized communities experience. Everyone deserves a quality education. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports House Bill 200.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland