



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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14201 School Lane | Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 | 301-952-6115 | www.pgcps.org/offices/board-of-education

TO: Ways and Means and Education, Energy, and the Environment,
and Judicial Proceedings

FROM: Policy and Governance Committee

DATE: March 4, 2024

SUBJECT: Bills the Prince George's County Board of Education Supports,
Supports with Amendments and Opposes - Week of March 4,
2024

Overview

This memo aims to give insight into the bills that the Board of Education in Prince George's County supports, opposes, or backs with amendments for the week of **March 4, 2024**. It also explains how each bill aligns with the [Board's Legislative Platform for 2024](#). In addition, the memo provides specific notes or amendments for each bill, if applicable. This list is not exhaustive and identifies bills we consider to be high-impact.

PGCPS Board Positions:

The Board **supports and supports with amendments*** the following bills:

- 1) [SB 927/HB 758](#) - Criminal Law - Crime of Violence – Second Degree Assault of a School Employee or Subcontractor (School Assault Reduction and Prevention Act)
- 2) [HB 1115](#) - County Boards of Education - Budget - Notice (Transparency in Education Spending Act)*
- 3) [HB 1385](#) - Early Childhood Education - Prekindergarten Providers - Resident and Conditional Teaching Certificate

The Board **opposes** the following bills:

- 1) [SB 0980](#) - Education - Computer Science – Content Standards and Requirements
- 2) [HB 1400](#) - Public Schools - Student Use of Force - Authorization
- 3) [HB 1418](#) - Public Middle and High Schools - Start Time for Instruction - Requirement
- 4) [HB 1455](#) - Public Prekindergarten and Child Care Providers - Wavier Action Plan and Assistance Hubs

Please consult Appendix A.1 for detailed information on the Board's stance and supplementary remarks on supported bills, and refer to Appendix A.2 for further information on the Board's position and additional notes regarding the bills that the Board opposes.



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PGCPS Board Support/Oppose Rationale:

The Board decides whether to support or oppose bills based on how well they align with its legislative platform. If a bill will help the board and school district address student, teacher, and school needs without adding unfunded mandates, for example, it will receive the board's support. However, some of the bills presented to the General Assembly this week include prescriptive curriculum mandates that the Board believes are inappropriate for legislators to impose. The subsequent charts provide more detailed information about these specific priorities.

Conclusion

Please take note of the following reasons why the Board requests your consideration for our support or opposition to the bills listed below. We appreciate your review of our recommendations and are always available to answer any questions. You may contact any of the following: Jonathan Briggs, Policy and Governance Chair (jonathan.briggs@pgcps.org); Robin Welsh, Director, Office of Government Relations (robin.welsh@pgcps.org); or Shelby McRae, Administrator, Office of Government Relations (shelby.mcrae@pgcps.org). Thank you.



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Appendix

A.1 - Bills P&G Supports and Supports with Amendments*

| # | Bill Number/Name | P&G Platform Priority | Bill Purpose | Note |
|----|---|------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. | SB 927/HB 758 - Criminal Law - Crime of Violence – Second Degree Assault of a School Employee or Subcontractor (School Assault Reduction and Prevention Act) | School and Community Safety | Establishing second-degree assault of an employee or a subcontractor 6 of a public or private elementary or secondary school as a crime of violence for certain 7 purposes and generally relating to crimes of violence. | Aligns with Legislative Platform regarding legislation that supports a safe learning and work environment. |
| 2. | HB 1115 - County Boards of Education - Budget - Notice (Transparency in Education Spending Act)* | Local School Board Authority | Requiring the State Board of Education to adopt a process for the uniform and timely reporting of certain county board of education budget information to a county governing body; requiring a county board to post certain information in a certain manner on the county board's website; requiring that a transfer between major categories of more than 1% of the total funding in a major category shall be made only with the approval of the county council. | PGCPS supports transparency regarding the budget and expenditures; however, we recommend that the bill be amended to increase the transfer from 1% to 15% of the total funding in a major category, which requires the county council's approval. |
| 3. | HB 1385 - Early Childhood Education - Prekindergarten | Staffing and Recruitment | Requiring the State Department of Education to establish a resident early childhood teaching certificate and a conditional early childhood teaching certificate for teachers | This bill's requirements should allow our educators to better support children in developing and teaching the basic skills they need to be |



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| | Providers - Resident and Conditional Teaching Certificate | | who meet certain criteria in eligible publicly funded prekindergarten programs and generally relating to resident teacher and conditional teaching certificates for prekindergarten providers. | successful in school. There should be a minimal fiscal impact, only the cost of paying instructors to teach the courses, which we already allocate. |
|--|---|--|--|---|

A.2 - Bills P&G Opposes

| # | Bill Number/Name | P&G Position | Bill Purpose | Notes |
|----|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. | SB 0980 - Education - Computer Science – Content Standards and Requirements | Curriculum, Assessments, and Grading | Requiring public high schools to promote and increase the enrollment of certain students in high school computer science courses; requiring, beginning on or before a certain date, the State Board of Education to update computer science content standards to include certain information; requiring county boards of education to provide certain computer science instruction in public elementary and middle schools in the county; and generally relating to content standards and requirements for computer science instruction in public schools in the State. | The fiscal impact of the unfunded curricular mandate, which would mandate changes to the curriculum and instructional standards for computer science education, is estimated at approximately \$9,000,000 for the first year and \$3,700,000 for the following years. |
| 2. | HB 1400 - Public Schools - Student Use of Force - Authorization | School and Community Safety | Authorizing a student to take reasonable action necessary to prevent violence on school premises or a school-sponsored trip; authorizing a student to use reasonable force necessary to protect themselves or escape an attack under certain circumstances; requiring the principal or school administration to investigate each student use of force incident; and prohibiting a school from disciplining a | It will be necessary to ensure mediation between students involved in fights to ensure that further fighting does not occur. Additionally, implementing this bill will increase the chances of more students being injured. To provide the added mediation, it will be necessary to have trained mediators available in all |



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| | | | student under certain circumstances. | schools, which will be costly for the school system. Training will need to be provided to staff and students. |
| 3. | HB 1418 - Public Middle and High Schools - Start Time for Instruction - Requirement | Local School Board Authority | Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year requires a public middle school to begin instruction not before 8 a.m. and a public high school to begin instruction not earlier than 8:30 a.m. unless granted a waiver by the county board of education under certain circumstances. | The proposed legislation mandating middle and high school bell times to start no later than 8:00 could significantly disrupt the daily operations of our school system. Limiting start times could adversely affect instructional hours, disrupt staff contracts, impact before and after-school care availability, and hinder after-school activities. Moreover, it could create challenges for high school students who need to work to support their families and participate in extracurricular activities. |
| 4. | HB 1455 - Public Prekindergarten and Child Care Providers - Wavier Action Plan and Assistance Hubs | Local School Board Authority | Requiring a county board of education that requests a certain waiver for publicly funded full-day prekindergarten to develop and submit a certain action plan to certain government entities; requiring the State Department of Education, in collaboration with the Accountability and Implementation Board, to establish certain assistance hubs throughout the State to support child care providers and coordinate partnerships within the State's mixed delivery system; establishing the Child Care Provider Hub Advisory Committee; etc. | The proposed is an unfunded mandate. The increased responsibility for childcare/private providers poses an undue hardship on PGCPs, given its large size and the number of prekindergarten classes/staff. The bill would cause an added strain on PGCPs' fiscal, human capital, and staffing resources to support the childcare community in addition to PGCPs Pilar 1 (Early Childhood) work. |