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BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND'S FUTURE

BILL: House Bill 1262
TITLE: County Boards of Education - Post College and Career Readiness Pathways - Payment of Costs
SPONSOR: Delegate Wilkins
HEARING DATE: March 5, 2025
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
POSITION: Information

The Accountability and Implementation Board for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (AIB) submits this **letter of information** for **House Bill 1262 – County Boards of Education – Post College and Career Readiness Pathways – Payment of Costs**.

House Bill 1262 would authorize local boards of education to develop and establish income eligibility guidelines for the payment of costs for post-college and career ready (CCR) pathways, including Advanced Placement courses specified by the College Board, the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, and the Cambridge AICE Diploma Program, programs that allow students to earn an associates degree or at least 60 credits towards a bachelor's degree, and a robust set of recommended and approved career and technology programs. Further, the legislation requires students with family incomes below 400% federal poverty level be provided access to post-CCR pathway programs, at no cost to them or their parents.

The Blueprint law (Chapter 36 of 2021) requires each local board of education to provide all students who meet the CCR standard with access to these post-CCR pathways, at no cost to the student or their parents. This is aligned to the intent of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (Commission) that there should be statewide uniformity in the way postsecondary courses taken during high school, and regular high school courses, are paid for. The current law is also aligned to the Commission's recommendation that such programs should be offered at no cost to the student or the student's parents, and without regard to ability to pay.

The AIB is committed to further exploring this issue with LEAs and institutions of higher education through the Dual Enrollment Workgroup that the AIB is convening. Additionally, while the AIB recognizes the financial constraints LEAs are facing at this time, the Board does not support efforts to constrain access to post-CCR pathways for students who have met the CCR standard.

We hope that you find this information helpful as you consider **House Bill 1262**. If you would like more information, please contact Joy Schaefer, Government Relations Director at joy.schaefer@maryland.gov or (410) 991-7326.