



BLUEPRINT FOR
Maryland's Future

Accountability &
Implementation Board

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BILL: Senate Bill 343

TITLE: County Boards of Education - Post College and Career Readiness Pathways - Payment of Costs

SPONSOR: Senator King

HEARING DATE: February 18, 2026


COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

POSITION: Information

The Accountability and Implementation Board for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (AIB) submits this **letter of information** for **Senate Bill 343 – County Boards of Education – Post College and Career Readiness Pathways – Payment of Costs**.

Senate Bill 343 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 has submitted a bill this session (HB 490/SB 311 Education - The Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Revisions) that extends, to FY 2030, the AIB and State Board's authority to require a minimum number of dual enrollment courses that a Local Education Agency must offer. 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 **SB 343**. If you would like more information, please contact Joy Schaefer, Government Relations Director at joy.schaefer@maryland.gov or (410) 991-7623.