



BLUEPRINT FOR
Maryland's Future

Accountability &
Implementation Board

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BILL: House Bill 1582

TITLE: Education - Program of Educational Accountability - Alterations (Comprehensive Outcomes and Measures of Progress for Supporting Schools (COMPASS Act))

SPONSOR: Chair, (By Request - Maryland State Department of Education)

HEARING DATE: March 12, 2026

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means


POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Accountability and Implementation Board for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (AIB) **SUPPORTS House Bill 1582 – Education – Program of Educational Accountability – Alterations (Comprehensive Outcomes and Measures of Progress for Supporting Schools (COMPASS Act)).**

House Bill 1582 makes important statutory changes that will modernize how the State measures student progress to better reflect expectations for student performance, enable Local Education Agencies (LEAs), schools, and communities to more readily use the data to achieve stronger academic outcomes, and inform the State of the support schools and districts need.

Providing equitable learning opportunities across our State so that every student can become college- and career-ready before they graduate from high school is the North Star of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. As the Blueprint acts as the roadmap towards this North Star, the Maryland Report Card acts as the compass. It provides the information needed to confirm our course and our movement towards our intended direction; it serves as a tool to give the State an objective assessment of our ongoing progress.

The bill strengthens the State's current accountability system by providing meaningful data that more accurately reflects student growth and, critically, student needs. This data will better support schools and communities not only in identifying what supports and resources schools need in order to improve teaching and learning, but which resources will make the biggest impact. The outcome will be increased accessibility to actionable school-level data that can be more readily used to improve



instruction, particularly in our most under-resourced schools.

The bill would also allow more flexibility to the Maryland State Board of Education (MSDE) to develop a model that is more easily understood by a broad array of interest-holders. Not only will the data be more accessible to MSDE leaders and staff, Local Education Agencies (LEAs), and school staff, but also to students, families, and communities. Additionally, the flexibility provided by the bill would allow MSDE to more quickly respond to new information and be better able to make continuous improvements to the accountability system.

Notably, MSDE based these proposals on recommendations developed over a lengthy and careful process that brought a wide representation of stakeholders and experts together as a task force, which included the AIB. The task force guidance acted as the foundation for MSDE's Maryland Accountability Advisory Committee, which served to transform the guidance into policy recommendations.

HB 1582 will result in a State accountability system that effectively points educators and communities towards improvement, elevating what factors help students learn and what supports are still needed. Such a strong accountability system will support the goals of the Blueprint by providing accurate, actionable data in a way that is accessible, equitable, and transparent.

For these reasons, the AIB **SUPPORTS HB 1582** and strongly urges a **FAVORABLE** report. If you would like more information, please contact Joy Schaefer, Government Relations Director at joy.schaefer@maryland.gov or (410) 991-7623.