

**Maryland General Assembly
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulations
State Board of Education**
(DLS Control No. 16-050)

Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact

These regulations establish standards to guide local school systems in the development and evaluation of professional learning programs for educators.

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Regulations of COMAR Affected

State Board of Education:

School Personnel: Standards for Professional Learning:
COMAR 13A.07.11.01 through .05

Legal Analysis

Background

In 2001, the State Board of Education adopted the Maryland Professional Development Standards to promote consistency and quality in professional development programs for teachers and other educators across the State. Local school systems have used the standards to create courses, workshops, and other opportunities for educators to develop knowledge, skills, and effective practices to help all students learn and achieve. The Maryland State Department of Education has used the standards to evaluate and approve courses offered for continuing professional development credit.

In 2011, based on input from professional development coordinators and assistant superintendents of instruction in the local school systems, the department recommended transitioning to the use of the Standards for Professional Learning developed by Learning Forward, a professional association (Learning Forward standards). A January 2016 survey conducted by the department indicated that 19 of the 24 local school systems in the State were using the Learning Forward standards. In addition, the department currently uses the Learning Forward standards (1) to evaluate and approve courses offered for continuing professional development credit and (2) as a basis for statewide professional learning initiatives, including the Educator Effectiveness Academies and the College and Career Readiness Conferences.

Summary of Regulations

These regulations, which are contained in new Chapter 11 entitled “Standards for Professional Learning”, establish standards to guide local school systems in the development and evaluation of professional learning programs and activities for educators. A description of significant new regulations follows.

Regulation .02 states that the purpose of new Chapter 11 is to guide local school systems in establishing a high quality, comprehensive professional learning program that will result in increased student achievement by ensuring that the learning program is designed and used according to standards that are aligned with the Learning Forward standards.

Regulation .03 incorporates by reference the August 2011 version of the Learning Forward standards.

Regulation .04 requires local school systems to evaluate the effectiveness of their professional learning programs. A local school system must use the October 2008 Maryland Teacher Professional Development Evaluation Guide as a resource for developing an evaluation model.

Regulation .05 requires local school systems to report in the Bridge to Excellence Master Plans their (1) goals, objectives, and strategies regarding professional learning programs; (2) timelines for implementation; and (3) methods for measuring progress.

Legal Issues

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent

The State board cites § 2-205(c) and (q)(2)(vii) of the Education Article as statutory authority for the regulations. Section 2-205(c) requires the State board to adopt bylaws, rules, and regulations for the administration of the public schools. Section 2-205(q)(2)(vii) requires the State board, in consultation with the State Superintendent of Schools, to develop and periodically update an overall plan consistent with the bylaws that identifies, among other things, methods to upgrade and improve teacher education and teacher certification programs.

This authority is correct and complete. The regulations comply with the legislative intent of the law.

Fiscal Analysis

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Agency Estimate of Projected Fiscal Impact

The department advises that the regulations have no impact on State or local governments since these regulations generally codify existing practice. The Department of Legislative Services concurs. The department reports that local school systems already have to evaluate professional learning programs and that 19 of the 24 local school systems currently use the Learning Forward Standards required by the regulations; the remaining five are currently using the department's 2001 standards. Thus, the department advises that the regulations do not materially affect local school system finances.

Impact on Budget

There is no impact on the State operating or capital budget.

Agency Estimate of Projected Small Business Impact

The department advises that the regulations have minimal or no economic impact on small businesses in the State. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

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