

**Maryland General Assembly  
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulation  
State Board of Education  
(DLS Control No. 21-009)**

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**Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact**

This regulation updates provisions of the Science Instructional Programs for Grades Prekindergarten through 12 to align the program requirements with the Maryland College and Career Ready Next Generation Science Standards.

The regulation presents no legal issues of concern.

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

**Regulation of COMAR Affected**

**State Board of Education:**

Specific Subjects: Program in Science: COMAR 13A.04.09.01

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**Legal Analysis**

**Background**

In 2013, the Maryland State Board of Education adopted the Next Generation Science Standards, a set of rigorous and internationally benchmarked standards that were developed by twenty-six states working collaboratively with stakeholders throughout the country. As the State's academic standards for the science subject area, the Maryland College and Career Ready Next Generation Science Standards define the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each grade level. According to the State board, local school systems and the Maryland State Department of Education will develop curriculum, curriculum resources, and science assessments aligned to the new standards.

**Summary of Regulation**

The regulation updates the provisions of the Science Instructional Programs for Grades Prekindergarten – 12 to align with the Maryland College and Career Ready Next Generation Science Standards. The regulation clarifies that the Maryland Science Program is required to include all Maryland College and Career Ready Next Generation Science Standards for all students. The regulation also requires each student to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts that unify the study of science through their common application across fields in the major disciplines of natural science. Finally, the regulation alters the name of the Life Science instructional program.

## **Legal Issues**

The regulation presents no legal issues of concern.

## **Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent**

The State board cites § 2–205(h) of the Education Article as statutory authority for the regulation. This provision requires the State board, with the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, to establish basic policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for public schools.

This authority is correct and complete. The regulation complies 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 regulation has no fiscal impact; however, local school systems may need to revise curricular resources to align with the regulation. The regulation updates the provisions of the Science Instructional Programs for Grades Prekindergarten through 12 to align with the Maryland College and Career Ready Next Generation Science Standards.

Under the current regulation, each local superintendent must certify to the State Superintendent that its science program is in compliance with the regulation every five years beginning September 1, 2005; the next certification deadline is September 2025. Local school systems regularly revise their curricula to align with the new standards and requirements of the regulation. Thus, the Department of Legislative Services advises that any fiscal impact can be handled with existing resources.

## **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 regulation has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses in the State. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

## **Contact Information**

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