

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 826
Ways and Means

(Delegate Boteler, *et al.*)

Baltimore County - Board of Education - Curriculum Publication

This bill requires, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, the Baltimore County Board of Education to post the curriculum used for each course taught in a public school in the county on its publicly accessible website. No later than 60 days after a curriculum for a course is approved or revised by the county board, the county board must post the new or updated curriculum on its publicly accessible website. The bill defines curriculum as (1) instructional materials; (2) assessment techniques; (3) Internet links for, or the name of, a textbook; and (4) course syllabi. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore County Public Schools can comply with the bill's requirements with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Baltimore County Public Schools Division of Curriculum and Instruction is responsible for researching and developing curricular and instructional programs for all students in all content areas in the county. More information on instruction and curriculum development can be found on the school system's [website](#).

Development of Public School Curriculum

With the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, the State Board of Education establishes basic policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for public schools. Subject to State law and the regulations, bylaws, policies, and guidelines established by the State Board of Education, each local board of education must establish the curriculum guides and courses of study for schools in its jurisdiction. Policies, rules, and regulations for the graduation of students from Maryland public schools are established by local boards of education and the State Board of Education.

Each local superintendent of schools must periodically certify to the State Superintendent that its program of instruction meets specified minimum criteria in specified subjects, including technology education, financial literacy, gifted and talented education, social science, career development, world languages, mathematics, physical education, and language arts/literacy.

Under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Chapter 36 of 2021), the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in consultation with experienced teachers, must develop specified curriculum standards and curriculum resources that include specified elements and meet specified standards, for each subject at each grade level, that build on one another in logical sequence in core subjects. MSDE must submit the curriculum resources and curriculum standards developed to the State Board of Education for adoption.

Using specified assessments in specified core subjects, the State Board of Education must identify low-performing schools. If MSDE, based on a recommendation by the Expert Review Team, determines that a low-performing school's performance is largely due to curricular problems, then the school must use the model curriculum. Otherwise, local school systems and public schools are not required to adopt the curriculum standards and resources developed by MSDE. More information on MSDE's role in the curriculum development process can be found on its [website](#).

Local Fiscal Effect: Baltimore County Public Schools advises that the Division of Curriculum and Instruction already posts written curricula in the *Year-At-A-Glance* document on the school system's [website](#). Further, per [BCPS Policy and Rule 6000](#), the written curriculum already includes "scope and sequence, goals and objectives, assessments, sample instructional activities and suggested resources." Therefore, Baltimore County Public Schools advises that any potential fiscal impact resulting from the bill is likely minimal and that it should be able to implement the bill's requirements with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Baltimore County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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km/hlb

Analysis by: Michael E. Sousane

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510