

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 467
Ways and Means

(Delegate Ivey)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Teacher Certification - Montessori Schools

This bill allows an individual to be eligible for a certificate to teach students in a public Montessori school if the individual (1) holds a valid credential from a specified Montessori teacher preparation program and (2) holds a bachelor’s degree in any field. The State Board of Education may require an individual to successfully pass an examination to be certified; however, beyond this examination, these teachers may not be required to meet any additional requirements to be certified to teach students in a Montessori school. An individual certificated in this manner may not teach students in a non-Montessori public school without meeting all other requirements relating to certification of public school teachers. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) can award teaching certificates to specified individuals using existing resources.

Local Effect: None. However, local school systems may have greater flexibility in hiring teachers to teach in public Montessori schools.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Montessori school” is defined as a public school that uses Montessori instruction as its primary method of instruction or a Montessori school approved by MSDE. Under the bill, the following Montessori credentials are acceptable: the American

Montessori Society; the Association Montessori Internationale; and a program accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education.

Current Law: To teach in a public school an individual must be eligible to be issued a certificate by the State Superintendent of Schools. The State does not require an individual to have a teaching certificate to teach in a private school, including a private Montessori School, under most circumstances. According to regulations, a private school teacher who provides instruction in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and courses for which secondary school credit is granted must hold at a minimum, one of the following: a bachelor's degree; 120 semester hours of college credit; or a bachelor's degree equivalent from a foreign country.

According to State regulations, an applicant for a professional certificate must meet the following requirements: (1) receive a bachelor's degree or higher from an institution of higher education; (2) complete one of the certification options; and (3) submit evidence of qualifying scores on the approved teacher certification tests. Rather than submit the qualifying scores, an individual may show one of the following: (1) a current, out-of-state teaching certificate and verification that a qualifying score was submitted to receive the certificate; (2) a professional teaching certificate and two years of satisfactory full-time teaching experience in the certification area at the appropriate level; or (3) evidence of distinction of knowledge, skill, and practice of teaching provided to the applicant by a national or regional organization that is approved by the State Superintendent of Schools.

There are different types of teaching certificates for public school teachers established in regulations. In general, first-time teachers are awarded a standard professional certificate. To be awarded a standard professional certificate, an individual must, in general, earn a bachelor's degree from an approved teacher preparation program. In general, teachers move from having a standard professional certificate to an advanced professional certificate within five years. To earn an advanced professional certificate, a teacher must earn a master's degree in an area directly related to public school education, earn a specified number of credits, or earn a national board certification and meet other requirements. An advanced professional certificate must be renewed every five years. To be issued a renewal certificate, a teacher must submit six acceptable semester credit hours.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 533 of 2020 passed the Senate and was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HB 1344, received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken. SB 1041 of 2018, a similar bill, received an unfavorable report from the Senate

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. Its cross file, HB 1002, received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 2022
fnu2/mcr Third Reader - March 21, 2022

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