

SENATE BILL 654

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4r3320
CF 4r1099

By: **Senator A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County – Student Support – Specialist Networks and Success**
3 **Action Plans**
4 **(Student Supports and Success Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing a Student Support Specialist Network consisting of certain
6 school-based personnel at each public high school in Prince George's County;
7 requiring the Prince George's County Board of Education to develop a certain
8 template using certain guidelines; requiring each Student Support Specialist
9 Network in the county to develop, approve, and implement a certain plan subject to
10 review and approval by the Prince George's County Board of Education; and
11 generally relating to Student Support Specialist Networks and Student Support
12 Success Action Plans in Prince George's County.

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Education
15 Section 7–452
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Education**

21 **7–452.**

22 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
23 **INDICATED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) “NETWORK” MEANS A STUDENT SUPPORT SPECIALIST
2 NETWORK.

3 (3) “PLAN” MEANS A STUDENT SUPPORT SUCCESS ACTION PLAN.

4 (4) “TEMPLATE” MEANS THE TEMPLATE DEVELOPED BY THE PRINCE
5 GEORGE’S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION USED BY A STUDENT SUPPORT
6 SPECIALIST NETWORK.

7 (B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY.

8 (C) THERE IS A STUDENT SUPPORT SPECIALIST NETWORK IN EACH PUBLIC
9 HIGH SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY.

10 (D) EACH NETWORK SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, IF
11 APPLICABLE:

12 (1) THE VICE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL;

13 (2) PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL-BASED COUNSELORS;

14 (3) SCHOOL-BASED PSYCHOLOGISTS;

15 (4) SCHOOL-BASED NURSES;

16 (5) LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS;

17 (6) CRISIS INTERVENTION RESOURCE TEACHERS;

18 (7) CAREER COACHES;

19 (8) COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATORS;

20 (9) SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS; AND

21 (10) SCHOOL SECURITY EMPLOYEES.

22 (E) (1) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 31, 2024, THE PRINCE GEORGE’S
23 COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP, APPROVE, AND DISSEMINATE A
24 TEMPLATE FOR A STUDENT SUPPORT SUCCESS ACTION PLAN TO BE USED BY EACH
25 NETWORK.

1 **(2) THE TEMPLATE FOR A PLAN DEVELOPED UNDER THIS**
2 **SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE METRICS TO MEASURE AND CONCRETE STEPS TO**
3 **ACHIEVE IMPROVEMENTS IN:**

4 **(I) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE ACCESS TO**
5 **BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS;**

6 **(II) THE RATIO OF LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS,**
7 **LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS, CRISIS INTERVENTION RESOURCE**
8 **TEACHERS, AND CLINICAL THERAPISTS TO STUDENTS;**

9 **(III) REFERRALS OF STUDENTS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES,**
10 **NURSES, CAREER COUNSELING, AND FOOD PANTRIES;**

11 **(IV) COMMUNITY SCHOOL ASSESSMENT RESULTS;**

12 **(V) THE USE OF RESTORATIVE APPROACHES IN ADDRESSING**
13 **STUDENT MISCONDUCT;**

14 **(VI) THE USE OF TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES TO A**
15 **STUDENT IN DISTRESS;**

16 **(VII) THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL-BASED ARRESTS;**

17 **(VIII) THE NUMBER OF STUDENT DISCIPLINARY REFERRALS**
18 **ISSUED;**

19 **(IX) THE NUMBER OF SUSPENSIONS;**

20 **(X) REFERRALS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE**
21 **SERVICES; AND**

22 **(XI) THE NUMBER OF EXPULSIONS FOR NONVIOLENT BEHAVIOR;**
23 **AND**

24 **(3) IN ADDITION TO THE METRICS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)**
25 **OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE TEMPLATE FOR A PLAN DEVELOPED UNDER THIS**
26 **SUBSECTION SHALL ALSO ADDRESS:**

27 **(I) STRENGTHENING SCHOOL CULTURE, CLIMATE, AND**
28 **COMMUNITY;**

1 **(II) FOSTERING COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN**
2 **NETWORKS;**

3 **(III) ENSURING STUDENTS IN CRISIS ARE SUPPORTED;**

4 **(IV) REDUCING OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS AND**
5 **EXPULSIONS;**

6 **(V) INCREASING ACCESS TO AND KNOWLEDGE OF BEHAVIORAL**
7 **HEALTH SUPPORTS;**

8 **(VI) REDUCING IN-SCHOOL VIOLENCE, GANG-RELATED**
9 **ACTIVITY, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE;**

10 **(VII) CULTIVATING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS OF**
11 **UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SCHOOL PERSONNEL, SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS,**
12 **SECURITY PERSONNEL, AND STUDENTS; AND**

13 **(VIII) STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK OF SERVICES FOR**
14 **STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO ARE IN CRISIS.**

15 **(F) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION, EACH NETWORK SHALL**
16 **COLLECTIVELY DEVELOP, COMPLETE, AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN UTILIZING THE**
17 **APPROVED COUNTY BOARD TEMPLATE.**

18 **(G) (1) BEFORE IMPLEMENTING A PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
19 **SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION, EACH NETWORK SHALL SUBMIT THE PLAN TO**
20 **THE COUNTY BOARD FOR APPROVAL.**

21 **(2) THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE**
22 **COUNTY BOARD.**

23 **(H) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2025, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH JULY 1**
24 **THEREAFTER, EACH NETWORK SHALL REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE**
25 **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NETWORK'S PLAN TO THE COUNTY BOARD.**

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
27 1, 2024.