

# SENATE BILL 654

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CF HB 821

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By: **Senator A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 26, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1           (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
2 INDICATED.

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

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

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

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

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

12           (D) EACH NETWORK SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, IF  
13 APPLICABLE:

14                   (1) THE VICE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL;

15                   (2) PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL-BASED COUNSELORS;

16                   (3) SCHOOL-BASED PSYCHOLOGISTS;

17                   (4) SCHOOL-BASED NURSES;

18                   (5) LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS;

19                   (6) CRISIS INTERVENTION RESOURCE TEACHERS;

20                   (7) CAREER COACHES;

21                   (8) COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATORS;

22                   (9) SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS; AND

23                   (10) SCHOOL SECURITY EMPLOYEES.

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