

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 451

(Senators Brooks and Hettleman)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Ways and Means

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**Baltimore County Board of Education - Nonstudent Member Compensation and  
Student Member Scholarships - Alterations**

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This bill increases compensation for members of the Baltimore County Board of Education. Compensation for each nonstudent member, other than the chair of the board, increases by \$9,000 to a total of \$16,500 annually. Compensation for the board chair increases by \$10,000 to a total of \$17,500 annually. The student member scholarship is also increased by \$2,500 such that a student member who completes a full term on the county board must receive a scholarship of \$10,000. Compensation increases do not apply to the compensation of board members serving in a term beginning before the effective date of the bill and only take effect upon the next term of office (or in the event an individual is appointed or elected to fill out an unexpired term after the effective date of the bill). **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Baltimore County expenditures increase by \$39,250 in FY 2027, rising to \$102,500 by FY 2030 as compensation increases take effect. County revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Baltimore County Board of Education consists of 12 members, including 4 at-large members appointed by the Governor, 7 nonpartisan members each

elected from 1 of 7 councilmanic districts, and 1 student member. Elected members serve a term of four years and must stand for election in gubernatorial election years. Appointed members also serve a term of four years but must be appointed in presidential election years. The student member serves a one-year term. The Baltimore County Board of Education is 1 of 4 hybrid school boards in the State with both appointed and elected members. There are 20 elected school boards in the State. The **Appendix – Local Boards of Education Membership** shows the selection methods, terms of office, and membership of the 24 local boards of education.

Each nonstudent member of the board (regardless of the member’s status as chair) is entitled to receive \$7,500 as compensation for their service as board member. The student member is entitled to receive a scholarship of \$7,500 upon the completion of a full term on the county board.

**Local Expenditures:** Under current law, Baltimore County provides its 12 members with a combined \$90,000 in compensation annually. Baltimore County Public Schools advises that board members do not receive any additional fringe benefits beyond the compensation outlined in statute. Therefore, assuming the board chair remains one of the appointed members and assuming no members retire before the end of their term in office, Baltimore County expenditures increase by:

- \$39,250 in fiscal 2027 representing the increased scholarship amount for the student member and increased compensation for elected members following the 2026 gubernatorial election and newly elected members starting their terms in December 2026;
- \$65,500 in fiscal 2028 representing a full year of increased compensation for elected members of the board (in addition to the student scholarship increase);
- \$87,100 in fiscal 2029 representing increased compensation for appointed members beginning their term in December 2028 (in addition to the student scholarship and elected member compensation increases); and
- \$102,500 in fiscal 2030 representing the full amount of compensation increases for student members and nonstudent members, including the additional increase for the chair of the board.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 108 (Baltimore County Delegation) - Ways and Means.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 24, 2024  
rh/hlb Third Reader - March 18, 2024  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 18, 2024

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# Appendix – Local Boards of Education Membership

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## Membership

The composition of the local boards of education varies with members serving three- to four-year terms. Twenty counties have elected school boards and four counties have combined appointed and elected school boards. Twenty-two boards have student members; however, only 8 boards allow student members to vote, which generally excludes authority to vote on matters relating to collective bargaining and personnel. Three counties with voting student members also preclude student members from voting on matters relating to operating and capital budgets. **Exhibit 1** shows the selection methods, terms of office, and membership of the 24 local school boards.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Local Boards of Education**  
**As of January 2024**

<u>School System</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Term</u>		<u>Means of Selection<sup>1</sup></u>
Allegany	6	4 years	E	5 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Anne Arundel <sup>2</sup>	8	4 years	E	7 from councilmanic districts 1 student (one-year term)
Baltimore City <sup>3</sup>	12	3 or 4 years	A/E	2 elected from city at large 9 appointed by mayor 1 student (one-year term)
Baltimore <sup>4</sup>	12	4 years	A/E	4 appointed from county at large 7 elected from councilmanic districts 1 student (one-year term)
Calvert	6	4 years	E	2 from county at large 3 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Caroline	7	4 years	A/E	3 elected from school board districts 2 appointed from county at large 2 students (nonvoting, one-year term)
Carroll	11	4 years	E	5 from county at large 5 commissioners <i>ex officio</i> (nonvoting) 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Cecil	6	4 years	E	5 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)

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<u>School System</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Term</u>		<u>Means of Selection<sup>1</sup></u>
Charles <sup>5</sup>	10	4 years	E	1 from county at large 8 from commissioner districts 1 student (one-year term)
Dorchester	8	4 years	E	5 from councilmanic districts 3 students (nonvoting, one-year term)
Frederick	8	4 years	E	7 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Garrett	6	4 years	E	2 from county at large 3 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Harford <sup>6</sup>	11	4 years	A/E	6 elected from councilmanic districts 3 appointed from county at large 1 superintendent <i>ex officio</i> (nonvoting) 1 student (one-year term)
Howard	8	4 years	E	2 from county at large 5 from councilmanic districts 1 student (one-year term)
Kent <sup>7</sup>	6	4 years	E	5 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Montgomery	8	4 years	E	2 from county at large 5 from school districts 1 student (one-year term)
Prince George's <sup>8</sup>	10	4 years	E	9 from school board districts 1 student (one-year term)
Queen Anne's	7	4 years	E	1 from county at large 4 from commissioner districts 2 students (nonvoting, one-year term)
St. Mary's	6	4 years	E	1 from county at large 4 from commissioner districts 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Somerset	5	4 years	E	5 from commissioner districts
Talbot	9	4 years	E	7 from school board districts 2 students (nonvoting, one-year term)
Washington <sup>9</sup>	8	4 years	E	7 from county at large 1 student (nonvoting, one-year term)
Wicomico	7	4 years	E	5 from councilmanic districts 2 from county at large
Worcester	10	4 years	E	7 from commissioner districts 3 students (nonvoting, one-year term)

<sup>1</sup> E = Elected and A/E = Combined appointed by Governor and elected board, except (1) in Baltimore City, members are appointed by the mayor from a list of names provided by the Baltimore City Public School Board Community Panel and (2) in Harford County, members are appointed by the county executive with the advice and consent of the county council. Entries for local boards that are at any point in the process of transitioning between means of selection reflect the final state the board will be in once the transition fully takes effect.

<sup>2</sup> Chapter 473 of 2017 restructured the Anne Arundel County Board of Education from a nine-member appointed board to an eight-member elected board consisting of seven elected members (one from each of the seven councilmanic districts on a nonpartisan basis) and one student member. The terms of the elected members are staggered; four members were elected at the 2018 general election and three members were elected at the 2020 general election as the terms of previously appointed board members expired. In this manner, the elected board is phased in. The members elected in 2018 serve a six-year term, while the members elected in 2020 serve a four-year term. Thus, beginning in 2024, all members must stand for election. An elected member of the board generally serves a four-year term beginning on the first Monday in December after the member's election and until a successor is elected and qualifies.

<sup>3</sup> Elected members serve a four-year term and appointed members serve a three-year term. Chapters 764 and 765 of 2023 expanded student member voting rights to include matters relating to capital and operating budgets; school closings, reopenings, and boundaries; and student disciplinary matters. Additionally, Chapters 764 and 765 require that the student member be elected by the high school students of Baltimore City Public Schools in accordance with procedures established by the board in collaboration with the Associated Student Congress of Baltimore City.

<sup>4</sup> Chapter 785 of 2023 authorized the student member of the board to vote on matters relating to capital and operating budgets provided the student member completes specified budget training within two months of their election. Chapter 786 of 2023 altered the timing of elections for board members such that (1) the four appointed members must be appointed by the Governor in *presidential election years* from a list of nominees submitted by the Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission and (2) the seven elected members of the county board must continue to be elected in *gubernatorial election years*.

<sup>5</sup> Chapters 404 and 405 of 2021 added two new members to the Charles County Board of Education and altered the selection method for board members by requiring that eight board members be elected from the county commissioner districts (two from each of the four districts) and one board member be elected from the county at large. Previously, the seven board members were all elected from the county at large. All seats are subject to election in November 2022; however, the at-large member elected in November 2022 must serve a two-year term (instead of the usual four-year term) until a successor is elected to a full term in November 2024. Chapters 404 and 405 also provided the student member with voting rights, subject to certain restrictions.

<sup>6</sup> Chapter 569 of 2022 eliminated the role of the Governor in appointing members to the Harford County Board of Education. Instead, beginning with members appointed following the 2022 gubernatorial election, the Harford County Executive will appoint board members, subject to the advice and consent of the Harford County Council by a vote of at least five members. In appointing members to the board, the county executive must ensure, to the extent practicable, that the total makeup of the board reflects the gender, ethnic, and racial diversity of the county. Members appointed to the board following the 2022 election must serve for a term of two years until a successor is appointed and qualifies. Subsequent board members will be appointed following the 2024 presidential election and each presidential election thereafter.

<sup>7</sup> Chapters 674 and 675 of 2023 codify a nonvoting student member of the Kent County Board of Education into statute and specify the selection method and responsibilities of the student member.

<sup>8</sup> Chapter 217 of 2022 altered the membership of the Prince George’s County Board of Education by removing the four appointed members from the board. Effective July 1, 2024, the board will become an elected board that consists of nine elected members, each of whom must reside in and be elected from a different school board district, and one student member. Chapter 793 of 2023 expanded the voting rights of the student member by allowing the student member to vote on, among other matters before the board, (1) capital and operating budgets; (2) school closings, reopenings, and boundaries; and (3) student disciplinary matters. The student member still may not vote on collective bargaining decisions, teacher and administrator disciplinary matters, and other personnel matters. The Act preserved a restriction on the student member attending an executive session relating to specified hearings or collective bargaining and additionally prohibits the student member from attending an executive session on a personnel matter on which the student member may not vote.

<sup>9</sup> Although not in statute, the Washington County Board of Education reports that there is a student member on the board and that the student member can only concur on votes and must abstain from certain matters.

Source: Sections 3-101 through 3-1405 of the Education Article; Local Boards of Education