

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 82 (Delegates Wu and T. Morgan)  
Ways and Means

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Post College and Career Readiness Pathways - Cost to Student - Alteration

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This bill repeals the *requirement* that a local board of education provide post college and career readiness (post-CCR) pathways, inclusive of fees, at no cost to students (or the students' parents) who meet the CCR standard. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill is directed at local school systems.

**Local Effect:** Beginning in FY 2025, local school system revenues may increase, potentially by millions of dollars, if a system opts to charge students (or their families) for post-CCR pathways. Expenditures may decrease if students or their families choose less costly post-CCR pathways.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:**

*Blueprint for Maryland's Future*

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Blueprint) legislation (including Chapter 771 of 2019, Chapters 36 and 55 of 2021, and Chapter 33 of 2022) established new programs, updated education funding formulas, and, among other provisions, included mechanisms for holding units of State and local government accountable for implementing the Blueprint.

State and local government units responsible for implementing an element of the Blueprint must develop implementation plans consistent with a specified Comprehensive Implementation Plan that describe the goals, objectives, and strategies that will be used to improve student achievement and meet the Blueprint recommendations for each segment of the student population.

### *College and Career Readiness Standard*

The State Board of Education (SBE) had to adopt a CCR standard as specified in English language arts, mathematics, and, when practicable, science. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) had to develop and begin to implement a plan to publicize the standards by January 1, 2022.

It is the goal of the State that students enrolled in public school meet the CCR standard before the end of grade 10 and no later than the time the student graduates from high school. It is also the goal of the State that each student enrolled in public school, regardless of the student's race, ethnicity, gender, address, socioeconomic status, or the language spoken in the student's home, have equitable access to CCR and meet the CCR standard at an equal rate.

Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, each student must be assessed no later than grade 10 by a method adopted by SBE to determine whether the student meets the CCR standard. Meeting the CCR standard must initially require a student to achieve the equivalent of a score of 4 or 5 in the mathematics and English portions of the Partnership for Assessment for College and Career Readiness grade 10 assessments, on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) grade 10 assessments, or any successor assessments. Statute required MSDE to conduct an empirical study of the interim CCR standard to determine whether the standard adequately measured students' readiness for college or careers. After the required empirical study has been completed, the CCR standard must reflect the results of the study.

On January 23, 2024, SBE adopted a new CCR standard, informed by the study's results. Proficiency under the new CCR standard can be demonstrated in two ways. The first method is for a student who has earned a high school grade point average of 3.00 or higher. Such a student must also earn a grade of A, B, or C in Algebra I, or score proficient or above on the Algebra I MCAP. The second method entails a student scoring proficient or above on both the English Language Arts 10 and the Algebra I MCAP.

### *Post College and Career Ready Pathways*

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, each local board of education must provide all students who meet the CCR standard with access to specific post-CCR pathways at no cost

(including fees) to them or their parents. These pathways include (1) a competitive entry college preparatory program chosen by the local board of education, as specified; (2) a program that allows a student, through an early college program or dual enrollment at a student's high school and an institution of higher education to earn an associate degree or at least 60 credits toward a bachelor's degree; and (3) a robust set of career and technology education (CTE) programs, as specified, that allow a student to complete specified credentials or apprenticeships.

A public high school must provide access to these programs directly or through another public school in the county. A student meeting the CCR standard must enroll in at least one post-CCR pathway, with counseling and advising services offered to help each student choose at least one pathway aligning with the student's goals. SBE must adopt regulations that guarantee, to the extent practicable, statewide uniformity in the quality of the post-CCR pathways, meeting the specified CCR pathway requirements, and granting high school graduation credit for the CCR pathway programs.

### *College and Career Ready Funding*

In addition to funding for non-CCR and CCR students provided within the foundation formula, funding is provided for students who have met the CCR standard adopted by SBE. Per-pupil funding, covered by both State and local shares, begins at \$517 in fiscal 2022 and is inflation adjusted each subsequent year. Post-CCR funding is based on the number of students in grades 9 through 12 who have met the post-CCR standard. Specifically, the fiscal 2025 funding is \$595 for each student in grades 9 through 12 meeting the interim CCR standard in spring 2023. For fiscal 2025, this per-pupil funding is providing local school systems with an estimated total of \$11.6 million in State funds and \$11.6 million in local funding to facilitate provision of post-CCR pathways to students through the Blueprint funding formula. Fiscal 2026 funding will be \$625 for each student in grades 9 through 12 meeting the CCR standard, adopted January 2024, in spring 2024.

Each fiscal year, the State must distribute the State share of the CCR program amount to each local board of education. The local board of education must distribute to each school the minimum school funding amount for CCR, which is 75% of the per-pupil amount.

### *Dual Enrollment*

A public institution of higher education may not charge tuition to a dually enrolled student. A public school system must pay 75% of the cost of tuition for a public institution of higher education for its students. If there is an agreement before July 1, 2020, between a public school and a public institution of higher education in which the public institution charges less than 75% of tuition to a dually enrolled student, the local board must pay the cost of tuition under the existing agreement. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Revisions

(Chapter 55 of 2021) expanded dual enrollment to include noncredit courses leading to an industry-recognized certificate or license.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The bill does not affect (1) the requirement for local school systems to provide post-CCR pathways; (2) the *total* cost of providing post-CCR pathways; or (3) the per-pupil State and local funding that local school systems receive to provide those pathways. However, it does eliminate the requirement for post-CCR pathways to be provided at no cost to students or their families. Thus, revenues may increase, by up to millions of dollars annually, if local school systems choose to charge students or their families for post-CCR pathways to offset some of their costs. The actual revenue increase depends on the costs associated with providing post-CCR pathways and local decisions regarding the charges imposed on students. Expenditures may decrease if students or their families choose less costly post-CCR pathways to lessen or avoid paying the cost of participation.

It is unclear if, or to what extent, local school systems will charge students (or their families) to offset costs associated with post-CCR pathways. Anne Arundel County Public Schools incurred \$2.7 million in costs for post-CCR pathways in fiscal 2023, while Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) estimates fiscal 2024 post-CCR pathways at \$4.0 million. Approximately \$2.4 million of the amount for FCPS is due to dual enrollment tuition, fees, and textbooks, with the remainder covering advanced placement fees, international baccalaureate fees, and fees for CTE programs. Baltimore City Public Schools intends to continue covering the full costs of post-CCR pathways for students, acknowledging that costs have posed challenges for districts where families previously contributed to tuition, fees, and materials.

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### **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Labor; Baltimore City Public Schools; Arundel County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Frederick County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 29, 2024  
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