

HOUSE BILL 197

F1
SB 917/24 – EEE

(PRE-FILED)

5lr1205
CF SB 68

By: ~~Delegate Pasteur~~ **Delegates Pasteur, Atterbeary, Ebersole, Fair, Feldmark,
Mireku-North, Palakovich Carr, Roberts, Wells, Wu, and Young**

Requested: October 15, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 23, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Restorative Practices Schools – Comprehensive Plan**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to develop a
4 comprehensive plan to implement requirements for the establishment of Restorative
5 Practices Schools; requiring a county board of education to use the comprehensive
6 plan if the county board chooses to establish a Restorative Practices School; and
7 generally relating to Restorative Practices Schools.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Education

10 Section 7–306

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Education

15 Section 7–306.1

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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.



Article – Education

7–306.

(a) (1) In this section, “restorative [approaches] **PRACTICES**” means a **COMMUNALLY AND CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE**, relationship–focused student discipline model that:

(i) Is preventive and proactive;

(ii) Emphasizes building strong relationships and setting clear behavioral expectations that contribute to the well–being of the school community;

(iii) In response to behavior that violates the clear behavioral expectations that contribute to the well–being of the school community, focuses on accountability for any harm done by the problem behavior; and

(iv) Addresses ways to repair the relationships affected by the problem behavior with the voluntary participation of an individual who was harmed.

(2) “Restorative [approaches] **PRACTICES**” may include:

(i) Conflict resolution;

(ii) Mediation;

(iii) Peer mediation;

(iv) Circle processes;

(v) Restorative conferences;

(vi) Social emotional learning;

(vii) Trauma–informed care;

(viii) Positive behavioral intervention supports; and

(ix) **[Rehabilitation] PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY.**

(b) Notwithstanding any bylaw, rule, or regulation made or approved by the State Board, a principal, vice principal, or other employee may not administer corporal punishment to discipline a student in a public school in the State.

(c) The State Board shall:

1 (1) Establish guidelines that define a State code of discipline for all public
2 schools with standards of conduct and consequences for violations of the standards;

3 (2) On request, provide technical assistance and training to county boards
4 regarding the use of restorative [approaches] **PRACTICES, INCLUDING TECHNICAL**
5 **ASSISTANCE IN BECOMING A RESTORATIVE PRACTICES SCHOOL IN ACCORDANCE**
6 **WITH § 7–306.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE;** and

7 (3) Assist each county board with the implementation of the guidelines.

8 (d) (1) Subject to the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section, each
9 county board shall adopt regulations designed to create and maintain within the schools
10 under its jurisdiction the atmosphere of order and discipline necessary for effective
11 learning.

12 (2) The regulations adopted by a county board under this subsection:

13 (i) Shall provide for educational and behavioral interventions,
14 restorative [approaches] **PRACTICES**, counseling, and student and parent conferencing;

15 (ii) Shall provide alternative programs, which may include in-school
16 suspension, suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary measures that are deemed
17 appropriate; and

18 (iii) Shall state that the primary purpose of any disciplinary measure
19 is rehabilitative, restorative, and educational.

20 (e) (1) On or before October 1 each year, the Department shall submit to the
21 Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General
22 Assembly, a student discipline data report that includes a description of the uses of
23 restorative [approaches] **PRACTICES** in the State and a review of disciplinary practices
24 and policies in the State.

25 (2) The Department shall disaggregate the information in any student
26 discipline data report prepared by the Department by race, ethnicity, gender, disability
27 status, eligibility for free or reduced price meals or an equivalent measure of socioeconomic
28 status, English language proficiency, and type of discipline for:

29 (i) The State;

30 (ii) Each local school system; and

31 (iii) Each public school.

32 (3) Special education-related data in any report prepared under this
33 subsection shall be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender.

1 (f) (1) In this subsection, “alternative school discipline practice” means a
2 discipline practice used in a public school that is not an in–school suspension or an
3 out–of–school suspension.

4 (2) The Department shall collect data on alternative school discipline
5 practices in public schools for each local school system, including:

6 (i) The types of alternative school discipline practices that are used
7 in a local school system; and

8 (ii) The type of misconduct for which an alternative discipline
9 practice is used.

10 **7–306.1.**

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

13 (2) “RESTORATIVE PRACTICES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §
14 7–306 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

15 (3) “RESTORATIVE PRACTICES SCHOOL” MEANS A PUBLIC SCHOOL
16 THAT INTEGRATES RESTORATIVE PRACTICES INTO DAILY PRACTICES AND
17 ACTIVITIES OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL.

18 (B) (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP
19 A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES
20 SCHOOLS.

21 (2) IN DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, THE DEPARTMENT
22 SHALL CONSULT WITH AND SEEK INSIGHT FROM:

23 (I) EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS WHO HAVE
24 EFFECTIVELY ESTABLISHED AND OPERATED SCHOOLS THAT INTEGRATE
25 RESTORATIVE PRACTICES INTO THE DAILY PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE
26 WHOLE SCHOOL; AND

27 (II) STATE AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE
28 STUDIED THE EFFECTIVE USE OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES AND HAVE
29 ESTABLISHED THE MOST APPROPRIATE METHODS OF INTEGRATING RESTORATIVE
30 PRACTICES IN THE SCHOOL SETTING.

31 (C) THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF
32 THIS SECTION SHALL:

1 **(1) PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO**
2 **IDENTIFY SCHOOL PERSONNEL QUALIFIED TO PROVIDE INITIAL RESTORATIVE**
3 **PRACTICES TRAINING AS RESTORATIVE PRACTICE COACHES TO OTHER SCHOOL**
4 **STAFF;**

5 **(2) ESTABLISH MODEL TRAINING MATERIAL IN RESTORATIVE**
6 **PRACTICES FOR PERSONNEL IDENTIFIED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO**
7 **USE IN TRAINING OTHER SCHOOL STAFF IN A MANNER THAT RESULTS IN**
8 **RESTORATIVE PRACTICES BEING INTEGRATED INTO SCHOOLWIDE PRACTICES AND**
9 **ACTIVITIES;**

10 **(3) ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR WHEN A SCHOOL MAY BE**
11 **DESIGNATED A RESTORATIVE PRACTICES SCHOOL; AND**

12 **(4) DEVELOP THE INTENDED OUTCOMES AND PERFORMANCE**
13 **METRICS THAT THE USE OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES ARE DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE,**
14 **INCLUDING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

15 **(I) STUDENT CONDUCT THAT LEADS TO DISCIPLINARY**
16 **ACTIONS, INCLUDING STUDENT OFFICE REFERRALS, SUSPENSIONS, EXPULSIONS,**
17 **AND SCHOOL ARRESTS;**

18 **(II) STUDENT ABSENTEEISM AND TRUANCY;**

19 **(III) RATES OF TEACHER TURNOVER AND ABSENTEEISM;**

20 **(IV) RELEVANT MENTAL HEALTH INDICATORS; AND**

21 **(V) SCHOOL CLIMATE INDICATORS.**

22 **(D) IF A COUNTY BOARD CHOOSES TO ESTABLISH A RESTORATIVE**
23 **PRACTICES SCHOOL WITHIN THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM, THE COUNTY BOARD**
24 **SHALL USE THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,
26 2026, the State Department of Education shall report to the Governor and, in accordance
27 with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on its comprehensive
28 plan for the establishment of Restorative Practices Schools required by § 7–306.1 of the
29 Education Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act.

30 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
31 1, 2025. ~~Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of~~
32 ~~June 30, 2027, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General~~
33 ~~Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~