

TO: Senator Paul Pinsky, Chair
Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

FROM: Margo Candelaria, PhD, Research Assistant Professor
Deborah Harburger, MSW, Director of Policy, Finance, & Systems Design & Director, The Ruth Young Center for Maryland

DATE: March 3, 2020

RE: SB 791/HB1298: County Boards of Education-Pregnant & Parenting Students- Policies & Reports - **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**

SB791/HB1298 names The Institute for Innovation & Implementation (The Institute), a department of the School of Social Work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, to conduct the data collection, analysis, and reporting activities outlined in the legislation (Article-Education, 4-138 (D) and (E)). The Institute for Innovation & Implementation, founded in 2005, serves as a national training, technical assistance, evaluation, policy, systems design, and finance center focused on supporting state and local governments and organizations in implementing, evaluating, and sustaining effective systems and clinical practices. The Institute is deeply committed to the work outlined in the legislation and would be honored to lead this evaluation.

Evaluation Activities Outlined in SB791/HB1298

We are unable to do this important work without a funding allocation. The Institute is located two blocks off-campus and has its own business, administration, and other shared services costs; The Institute also pays rent for its office space. All of those costs, as well as the salaries and fringe benefits for the 120 faculty and staff at The Institute are funded through contracts, intergovernmental agreements, grants, and cooperative agreements with approximately 30 different entities. We do not receive a budget allocation from the State or the University System of Maryland. Therefore, the University of Maryland, Baltimore will **need to receive funding to conduct the work** outlined in SB791/HB1298; **we cannot assign any faculty or staff to do this work without that funding**, as we utilize an effort-based payroll system. All faculty and staff are funded through grants and contracts with specific deliverables.

We have submitted project expenditures for this work to the Department of Legislative Services. We estimate the direct cost to be approximately \$163,000 in FY21, with similar costs in FY22-25. If the funding were allocated to a different Agency with a requirement to contract with The Institute, costs would increase by approximately \$22,600 in FY21 to include UMB's usual interagency indirect cost rate of 15% (lower than the federally negotiated rate of 26% as an off-campus entity).

Additionally, we would like to propose *modifications to the bill* as written in order to support a quality data collection and evaluation process. Although data collection could begin by June 2021, the data likely will not be comprehensive because data use and sharing agreements and protocols will need to be established with each local school system. **We recommend having the necessary protocols and policies in place by June 30, 2021, with the following reports due:**

- *Interim report due March 1, 2023 based on data submitted on school years 20-21 (partial year) and 21-22 (full year).*
- *Final report due March 1, 2025 based on data submitted in school years 20-21 (partial year), 21-22, 22-23, and 23-24.*

Need for Services to Support Pregnant & Parenting Youth

Dr. Candelaria serves as the lead evaluator for the Map to Success Program in Baltimore City (FFY2018-2020). Map to Success was funded by a U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Pregnancy Assistance Fund award to the Maryland Department of Health, which provided funds to the Baltimore City Health Department. The Map to Success program worked utilized existing partnerships to strengthen referral networks and program engagement for pregnant and parenting youth in Baltimore City. In year 1 (7/18-7/19), 333 pregnant and parenting youth (including 40 fathers) were referred to services with increases each quarter (Q1=52, Q2=93, Q3=77, Q4=111). This surpassed goal numbers. The program has served a diverse array of youth (20% Hispanic/Latino, 71% African-American) with services including on-site services at schools (e.g. parenting support, parenting groups, and individual health services) as well as assistance with housing and school engagement services, including engagement in local college programs. Partner interviews indicated that **pregnant and parenting youth are interested in staying in and completing school and seek supportive services such as flexible schedules, childcare, and assistance with reentry into schools and transition to higher education.**

We are happy to provide additional information regarding Map to Success, research findings regarding necessary services to support pregnant and parenting youth, and/or information on the proposed evaluation activities to assist you in moving this important work forward on behalf of children, youth, and families in Maryland.

House Bill ..., Sponsored by...: Education Equity for Pregnant,
Expectant, and Parenting Students (PEPS) Act, Evaluation Scope of
Work

Presented to:
The Maryland State Legislature
By University of Maryland
School of Social Work
The Institute for Innovation and Implementation

Period for proposed work:
July 1, 2020 through July 1, 2023

Contract Objective:

The contract objective is implementation of the PEPS Act through management and analysis of the data, evaluation of and documentation of Professional Development and Policy changes, and reporting of findings.

Specific Activities:

Task 1: Analyze school district data for each jurisdiction including the following data:

1. Data will include the following:
 1. The number of students seeking and attaining diplomas
 - a. The number of students seeking and attaining GEDs
 - b. The duration of school enrollment
 - c. The violation of school attendance policy and truancy claims
 - d. The school-based support services utilized by pregnant and parenting students
 - e. The community-based support services utilized by and referred to pregnant and parenting students
 - f. The availability and means to disseminate materials pertaining to the educational rights of pregnant, expectant, and parenting students, including those protected under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, and Maryland Education Code, CH 729, Section 7-301.1, authorizing excused absences for pregnancy and parenting needs.
2. Data will be collected three times annually to allow for examination of changes over time in response to increased professional development and state and local policy changes related to the PEPS Act.

Task 2: Document and evaluate Professional Development activities related to Pregnant, Expectant, and Parenting Students including:

1. The number, type, and frequency of professional development activities
2. Evaluation of trainee responses to trainings

Task 3: Document and evaluate local policy changes related to Pregnant, Expectant, and Parenting Students including

1. The number, type, and frequency of policy changes at the local level
2. Identify any documentation indicating implementation of said policy changes
3. Collect any data relevant to said policy changes to be determined in conjunction with school staff

Task 4: Reporting of all evaluation effort

1. An interim report will be created after July 2022 to indicate progress and initial findings.
2. A final report will be created after July 2023 to review all final findings.

Timeline

July 2020 – June 2021

- Contact Jurisdictions
- Collect existing data from Jurisdictions
- Determine existing processes for determining pregnancy, expectant and parenting status and how data is coded, collected reported
- Develop a revised data collection system, in collaboration with MSDE and local jurisdictions, to best reflect practices to keep pregnant, expectant, and parenting youth in school and provide resources as set forth in the PEPS Act

July 2021 – June 2022

- Train jurisdictions in revised data collection system
- Implement and evaluate Professional Development trainings
- Track and document work with MSDE and local Jurisdictions to revise policies and procedures for pregnant, expectant, and parenting youth
- Collect data using new system
- Produce Interim Report

July 2022 – June 2023

- Continue to train jurisdictions in revised data collection system as needed
- Continue to Implement and evaluate Professional Development trainings
- Continue to track and document work with MSDE and local Jurisdictions to revise policies and procedures for pregnant, expectant, and parenting youth
- Conduct final data collection using new system