



While the indicators do not explicitly specify gambling dangers and addiction, the framework requires age and developmentally-appropriate education related to awareness and prevention of addiction. Recognizing that it is not possible to provide detailed information on every health topic or every kind of addiction, in skills-based Health Education programs, the goal is for students to learn to recognize addiction of any kind and seek guidance from a trusted adult or helping professional.

The skills associated with this goal would include decision-making, accessing valid and reliable information, analyzing influences, and advocacy related to all types of addiction, including gambling. MSDE registers concern that instruction focused solely on the dangers of gambling and gambling addiction is not aligned with an intentionally-broader, skills-based health education approach, and may lead to confusion for local school systems.

With requirements in the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future that MSDE and the State Board develop new curricular standards and resources for every grade level designed to be used by local school systems to meet college and career readiness for students by the end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade, MSDE registers additional concerns that any unaligned processes and timelines for the completion of such similar and simultaneous work could be counterproductive both to MSDE and to local school systems.

As local school systems continue to update their curriculum in accordance with the revised standards and frameworks and look to make future changes to curricular standards as a result of the Blueprint, additional legislatively prescribed curricular mandates at this time could create implementation-based inefficiencies due to the nearly complete revision of curriculum already charged within the Blueprint.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **Senate Bill 363**. Please contact Ary Amerikaner, at 410-767-0090, or [ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov](mailto:ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov), for any additional information.