

BILL: Senate Bill 1
TITLE: Education - Specialized Intervention Services - Reports
DATE: January 25, 2017
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) appreciates the intent of this legislation to facilitate a better understanding of how school systems are providing specialized intervention services to students.

The type of services being addressed in this legislation are similar to the Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) under federal law. According to the U.S. Department of Education, CEIS are services provided to students in kindergarten through grade 12, with particular emphasis on students in kindergarten through grade three, who are not currently identified as needing special education or related services, but who need additional academic and behavioral supports to succeed in a general education environment.

The federal special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and corresponding regulations identify activities that may be included as CEIS. These activities include: (1) providing students with educational and behavioral evaluations, services, and supports, including scientifically based literacy instruction; and (2) providing professional development for teachers and other school staff to enable them to deliver academic and behavioral interventions, literacy instruction, and instruction on the use of adaptive and instructional software.

Again, MABE appreciates the interest in gaining a better understanding of how many students are receiving specialized intervention services, and the investments being made to do so. However, local boards are concerned that the scope of services being addressed, and the personnel resources required to complete the bill's reporting requirements, are so significant that further study is warranted before adopting a new statewide annual reporting requirement.

Therefore, MABE is requesting that Senate Bill 1 be amended to establish an interim study of the complex statutory and regulatory issues, and the reporting requirements relating to specialized intervention services and to the federal, state and local funding being provided for such services.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 1, with the amendment described above.