

BILL: Senate Bill 116
TITLE: Public Schools - Inclusive and Diverse English Language Arts - Development of Content Standards and Implementation
DATE: February 3, 2022
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes Senate Bill 116, which would mandate certain revisions to content standards and curriculum in the teaching of English Language Arts.

MABE generally opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum, including the content standards on which curriculum is based, firmly believing that this role belongs to local boards of education in conjunction with the State Board. Therefore, MABE's opposition to this bill does not rest on an evaluation of the merits of teaching any specified subject matter, but rather opposition to statutorily mandating revisions to content standards and curriculum.

In creating the State Board and local boards of education, the General Assembly has delegated to them the responsibility for reviewing and adopting content standards and, at the local level, reviewing and adopting curriculum. The State Board establishes State content frameworks, state assessment standards, and minimum state graduation requirements. Each local board and school system implement locally-developed curriculum to ensure that the state content frameworks are followed, student performance standards are met, and students are prepared to meet graduation requirements.

In the context of the content standards proposed by Senate Bill 116, the following table provides links to Maryland's High School Content Standards in English Language Arts, with all Prekindergarten through Grade 12 standards available at:
<https://mdk12.msde.maryland.gov/INSTRUCTION/StandardsandFrameworks/ela/Pages/EnglishHomePage.aspx>.

| Maryland State Standards and Frameworks: English Language Arts | |
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| <p>Grade 9 Author's Craft: Characters, Diction, and Structure The Search for Identity Allusions of Love (CMS) Making my Point</p> <p>Grade 10 The Journey for Social Justice Examining Human Compassion A World Of Words The Price Of Ambition</p> | <p>Grade 11 Writers on Writing Exploring Independence Faces of War In Search Of The American Dream</p> <p>Grade 12 Dramatic and Philosophical Journeys Searching for Justice Ethical Dilemmas Critiquing Societal Dimensions(CMS)</p> |

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 116.