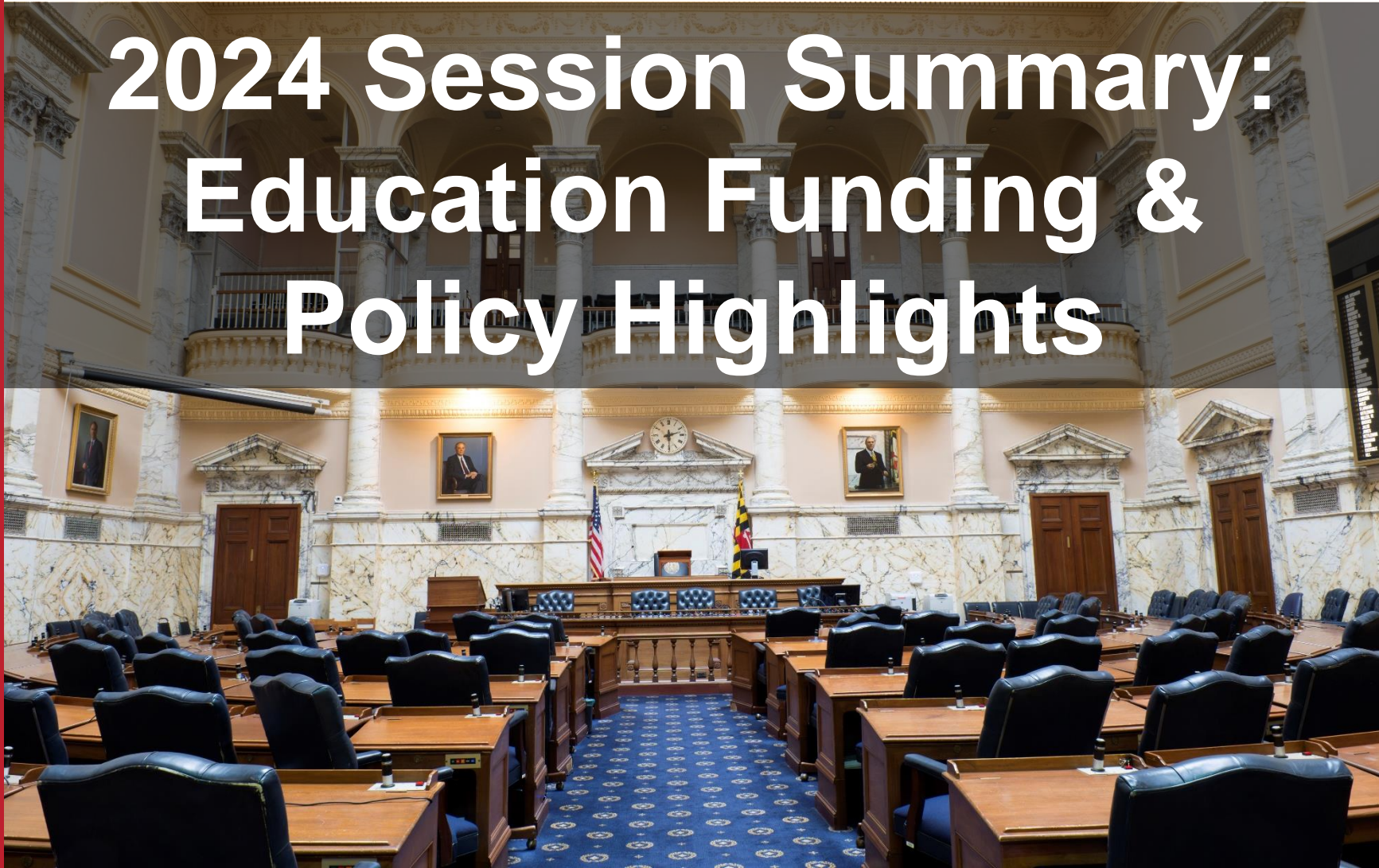




2024 Session Summary: Education Funding & Policy Highlights



Presentation Overview

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2024 Session Overview

The 2024 legislative session saw the introduction of 1,535 House bills and 1,193 Senate bills, including the State operating and capital budget bills. MABE monitored more than 400 of these bills, with many becoming new laws with significant impacts on public education funding and policy.

- MABE's bill [testimony](#) on nearly 80 House bills and 60 Senate bills reflected MABE's [Legislative Positions & Priorities](#), which include position statements on major policy areas.
- MABE legislative positions also reflect the association's [Continuing Resolutions](#), which are updated and adopted by the full membership at MABE's annual conference.

Education in the State Budget

SB 360 - FY 2025 State Budget Bill

SB 362 - FY 2025 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA)

- Increases Funding for Public Schools: State support for public schools will total \$9.1 billion. Aid to local school systems will increase an estimated \$457.1 million, or 5.3%.
- Improves the Financial Condition of the Blueprint Fund: The budget erases the projected FY 2027 Blueprint Fund shortfall by increasing taxes on cigarettes, other tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices and dedicating both the new revenues and a portion of existing tobacco tax revenues to the Blueprint Fund.
- Other actions improving the health of the Blueprint Fund include reducing FY 2025 spending and transferring \$40 million from the School Construction Revolving Loan Fund.
- Preserves Reserves: About \$2.4 billion in cash resources are preserved including \$2.3 billion in the Revenue Stabilization Account (Rainy Day Fund) (9.4% of general fund revenues) and \$128 million in the General Fund.

Education in the State Budget

SB 360 - FY 2025 State Budget Bill

SB 362 - FY 2025 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA)

MABE advocated for the following provision of the BRFA, as introduced. It was removed in the Senate, reinstated in the House, and adopted by the Conference Committee.

School-based Behavioral Health Highlight:

For FY 2025 only, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund provided for Coordinated Community Supports (the Consortium) may include reimbursements for school-based behavioral health services (not to exceed \$12 million), and to reimburse the Medical Care Programs Administration for services provided on a fee-for-service basis through a Medicaid waiver.

- Conference Committee Summary Report

School Construction in the Capital Budget

SB 361 - FY 2025 Capital Budget Bill

Public School Construction Program Funding	FY 2025
Aging Schools Program	\$6.1 million
Health School Facility Fund	\$90 million
School Construction Program	\$314 million
Supplemental Grant Program	\$40 million
Total	\$450 million

Blueprint

HB 1082 - Blueprint for Maryland's Future Implementation - Funding and Independent Evaluation - Alterations

- Requires each county board of education to provide \$150,000 for the salary and benefits of the Blueprint implementation coordinator.
- The State and county governments must pay for coordinator salaries in the same proportion as the foundation program.
- Local boards of education receive \$3.6 million in additional annual State and local funding for local Blueprint coordinator salaries (\$1.84 million in State funding and \$1.76 million in local funding).
- The requirement to appoint an implementation coordinator for each county, which currently terminates after FY 2026, is extended indefinitely.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Blueprint

HB 1426 - Education - Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Alterations

- Authorizes the State Board and the AIB to establish limits on courses taken by dually enrolled students. (State Board/AIB policy being adopted to cover last year under interim CCR standard).
- Expands eligibility for state payments of National Board Certification (NBC) fees to include certain non-classroom teachers, including administrators, assistant principals, and instructional specialists.
- Authorizes the State Board, rather than the AIB, to determine criteria for classroom teaching time, e.g. 60% classroom teaching time, 40% other teaching activities, effective in phases over an 8-year period beginning July 1, 2025.
- In 2024 only, the administration of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment may be completed after October 10.
- Extends deadlines for CTE goals from 2022 to 2024.
- The bill takes effect June 1, 2024.

Prekindergarten

HB 1441 - Early Childhood Education - Publicly Funded Prekindergarten Programs - Alterations

- Makes numerous changes related to publicly funded prekindergarten programs, including adjusting staff credentials, altering slot allocations for providers, requiring agreements between local boards and relevant agencies, authorizing applications for State funding for leased space, introducing support initiatives, establishing a career ladder for private PreK providers, establishing provider hubs, and extending funding timelines for grant programs.
- Highlight: Extends PreK Expansion Grant funding, at nearly \$20,000 per pupil, through FY 2030 to incentivize private participation.
- Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, private PreK slots “shall account for at least 10% of the total” by county; increasing by 10% per year until 2028-2029 (when private slots must account for 50%).
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Prekindergarten/Head Start

HB 902 - Prekindergarten - Ulysses Currie Head Start Program - Eligibility for State Funds

- Establishes that a provider in the Ulysses Currie Head Start Program is eligible to receive full State funds under the full-day prekindergarten program, even if the program receives federal funds.
- Head Start providers may be exempted from including program elements specified in the Blueprint in order to qualify for full-day PreK funding.
- This bill is expected to impact both state and local shares of prekindergarten funding for additional Head Start students beginning in FY 2026.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Community Schools

HB 200/SB 161 - Community Schools - Alterations

- Alters requirements for community schools and community school coordinators, including:
- Requires MSDE (Community Schools Director) to create a common needs assessment and evaluation form.
- Requires coordinators to submit detailed annual reports to MSDE and the AIB on funding and strategies.
- Requires a statewide report including local community school reports.

Note: The bill as enacted does NOT provide school system flexibility on a portion of school-based community schools funding.

Community Schools

HB 428/SB 370 - Community Schools - Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program and Fund - Establishment

- Establishes the Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program and related fund to provide rental assistance to eligible student households at community schools.
- The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) must administer the program in consultation with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).
- The Governor may include an appropriation of \$10 million in the annual budget bill for the program.
- Per MABE's request, the bill was amended to remove the mandated role of community school coordinators.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Community Schools

SB 482 - Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

- This Administration bill codifies the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) and establishes the ENOUGH Grant Program and Fund (\$15 million) to advance place-based strategies targeting child poverty.
- Grants must serve a community that includes census tracts with more than 30% of children living in poverty, is served by a community school (with requisite poverty levels) and represent a partnership that includes at least one community-based organization, one public school, and one local governmental entity and has identified a lead partner and a fiscal agent.
- Grants are to increase community health and safety, job training and placement, access to high-quality education and health care, and leverage federal, local, and private funding.
- Requires a new study and report on "Neighborhood Indicators of Poverty" in 2025.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

SB 33 - More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024

- Requires public high schools, in the same manner in which the school informs students of postsecondary educational options (Naviance), to inform students of employment and skills training opportunities available through:
 - (1) apprenticeship sponsors registered with the division of workforce development and adult learning;
 - (2) employers registered with the Maryland Dept. of Labor or local workforce development boards; and
 - (3) schools licensed by MHEC that provide training, retraining, or enhancement in employment skills.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Blueprint Leadership Training

HB 1287 - School Leadership Training Program - Alterations

- Consolidates and modifies the Blueprint law's required school leadership training programs, already required to be established by MSDE in conjunction with the AIB.
- Requires the State Superintendent of Schools, local superintendents of schools, and the chairs and vice-chairs of the State Board, AIB, and each local board to complete the training at least once.
- Encourages, to the extent practicable, training of all members of local boards, the State Board and AIB, principals, and senior leadership staff.
- Training is to be cohort-based to encourage collaboration and shared learning, provided through virtual sessions and in-person sessions, including through regional gatherings of education leaders and other meetings.
- Specific training topics are outlined in the law.
- The bill takes effect June 1, 2024.

School Finance and Business Operations

HB 291/SB 170 - County Boards of Education - Bid Advertisement Threshold and Electronic Posting of Hearing Notices and Bid Advertisements

- Requires county boards of education to electronically post notice of a hearing on the selection of a school site on the local school system website, in addition to in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.
- Repeals the requirements for physical and electronic posting on bid boards and allows posting on school system websites to fulfill the advertising requirements for bids on school buildings, improvements, supplies, or equipment above \$100,000.
- Updates bid advertising requirements by specifying eMaryland Marketplace, instead of Maryland Contract Weekly, as an authorized publication.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

School Finance and Business Operations

HB 571/SB 485 - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications

- Modifies the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Program by altering key administrative deadlines, definitions, and components of the program's administration.
- The program start dates are delayed by nine months to July 1, 2025, for required contributions and six months to July 1, 2026, for benefit payments.
- The bill also authorizes the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to adopt regulations that establish application and renewal fees for private employer plans.

School Finance and Business Operations

HB 760 - Office of Legislative Audits - Local School Systems - Report

- Requires each local school system to submit a report to the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee on the status of the implementation of corrective actions to address repeat findings and recommendations identified by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) in the most recent six-year audit.
- This report is due by November 1 of the third year of the six-year OLA audit cycle.
- Each local school system must publish the report on its website with any cybersecurity findings redacted in a manner consistent with auditing best practices.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

School Finance and Business Operations

HB 1115/SB 1026 - County Boards of Education - Budgets - Notice (Transparency in Education Spending Act)

- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt a process for the uniform reporting of information in a county board of education budget to timely share the information provided by a county board of education in that budget to a county governing body.
- County boards must prepare their annual budget to include as major categories (1) specified current funds held in reserve; (2) the amount of any federal funds received in the last fiscal year; and (3) the amount of funds held in trust or otherwise dedicated toward long-term obligations for retiree health care costs or other postemployment benefits, and information used to calculate the county board's obligation for those costs.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Note: The bill does NOT modify the law regarding inter-fund transfers.

School Facilities

HB 1390 - Public Schools - Public School Construction - Funding and Administration

- Repeals the scheduled termination (sunset) of the School Safety Grant Program (SSGP) on June 30, 2026;
- Establishes the Workgroup on the Assessment and Funding of School Facilities;
- Reduces the mandated appropriation for the Nancy K. Kopp Public School Facilities Priority Fund (PSFPF) by \$10 million annually beginning in FY 2027 and alters the Fund's purpose for FY 2027;
- Requires the State to begin making payments to Prince George's County for a public-private partnership (P3) in fiscal 2025 (instead of fiscal 2026); and
- Clarifies legislative intent regarding \$450 million annual CIP funding levels for school construction is in addition to Built to Learn funding.
- The bill takes effect June 1, 2024.

Note: the bill does NOT repeal the sunset for the \$6 million Aging Schools Program in FY 2026.

Employee Relations

HB 137 - Civil Actions - Civil Immunity - Educator Intervention

- Establishes that a member of the administrative, educational, or support staff of any public, private, or parochial school acting in an official capacity is immune from civil liability for any personal injury or property damage resulting from an intervention in an altercation between students or other student disturbance if:
 - (1) the staff member intervened in a reasonably prudent manner; and
 - (2) the staff member's actions do not constitute grossly negligent, willful, wanton, or intentionally tortious conduct.
- The bill takes effect October 1, 2024.

Employee Relations

HB 144/SB 232 - Public Employee Relations Act - Alterations

- This departmental bill alters provisions of the Public Employee Relations Act (PERA) by defining the term “interested employee organization” as an employee organization already representing employees in a bargaining unit or a petitioner who has met the showing of interest requirement under current law.
- The bill alters the timing of exclusive representative access to new employees under PERA.
- Clarifies terms “charges” and “complaints.”
- Additionally, the bill clarifies responsibilities of specified deputy directors and the process for investigations under PERA.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Employee Relations

HB 945/SB 771 - Education - Initial Teacher Certification - Requirements

- Repeals the graduation requirement, set to take effect in 2025, that graduates of teacher preparation programs must also pass a nationally-recognized portfolio-based assessment (§ 6–121).
- Modifies initial teacher certification requirements to require a candidate to:
 - Pass the subject-specific examinations under current law (§ 6–125); and
 - Meet one of the following qualifications: (1) pass a nationally recognized, portfolio-based assessment of teaching ability (current law); **or (2) complete a rigorous local school system teacher induction program.**
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.
- *Details on the local induction programs are described on the following slide.*

Employee Relations

HB 945/SB 771 - Education - Initial Teacher Certification - Requirements

- A rigorous local school system teacher induction program must last for the lesser of 3 years or the amount of time a teacher may hold a conditional teacher certificate, and teachers must:
 1. pass a basic literacy skills assessment approved by the department;
 2. hold a degree from a regionally accredited educational institution and have earned a minimum overall cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent on the most recently earned degree; or
 3. submit documentation satisfactory to the department of satisfactory having received effective evaluations from a local school system.

Employee Relations

HB 945/SB 771 - Education - Initial Teacher Certification – Requirements

- (iii) Before establishing a comprehensive induction program, one or more local school systems **shall** submit a plan for the program to the department and the accountability and implementation board.
- (ii) The comprehensive induction program **shall** be developed by a local school system, either independently or collaboratively with other local school systems.
- (iv) The comprehensive induction program **shall** include a locally developed portfolio component that is aligned with the interstate teacher assessment and support consortium standards.
- Note: § 6–117 is cross-referenced and requires MSDE guidelines for induction programs.

Employee Relations

HB 1157/SB 937 - Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program - Established

- Establishes the Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program to provide support to eligible provisional teachers and noncertified education support professionals interested in teaching who pledge to fulfill a service obligation.
- Provides grants to local school systems in collaboratives for certain teacher candidates' expenses and program administration costs.
- Collaboratives (consisting of local school systems, employee organizations representing those employees, and approved teacher preparation programs) may apply for grants by submitting plans to MSDE.
- The Governor may include an appropriation in the annual budget for the program.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Employee Relations

HB 1386 - Education - School Employee Antibias Training - Requirements

- Requires MSDE, in consultation with the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB), to develop guidelines for an antibias training program for school employees.
- Requires each county board of education to provide anti-bias training every other year to all employees whose job duties include frequent interaction with students.
- Requires training to be job-embedded, paid professional development provided during non-teaching time.
- To the extent practicable, training is to be offered in a peer-to-peer setting, take a half day or less, and incorporate lessons from local incidents of bullying, harassment or intimidation.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Higher Education

HB 75/SB 377 - Higher Education - Teacher Development and Retention Program - Alterations

- Expands eligibility for Teacher Development and Retention Program educator stipends (a program to provide both initial stipends and internship stipends) to include students attending a Maryland community college.
- Extends the initial stipend and internship stipend programs to 2030.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Background:

- The Teacher Development and Retention Program is a pilot program designed to incentivize a cohort of students to pursue a career in the teaching profession. The purpose of the Program is to provide support to eligible individuals who ultimately pledge to fulfill a service obligation as a teacher employed full-time in a high-needs school, grade level, or content area in the State in which there is a shortage of teachers, as identified by MSDE.
- The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has \$10 million to administer the program within the Maryland College Aid Processing System (MDCAPS).

Higher Education

HB 545/SB 441 - Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program - Nancy Grasmick Public School Professional Award - Public School Nurses

- This bill expands eligibility for the Nancy Grasmick Public School Professional Award to include public school nurses with two years of experience who provide health services in a public school and are employed by a local school system or local health department (LHD) to provide health services through an agreement with a local board of education.
- The bill also expands the requirements of the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to publicize the program.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Student Health

HB 86/SB 180 - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Bronchodilators - Use, Availability, Training, and Policies

- This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in consultation with local boards of education, to establish a policy for public schools to authorize the school nurse and designated school personnel to administer a bronchodilator to a student who is determined (by an individual with specified training) to be, or is perceived to be, experiencing asthma-related symptoms or is perceived to be in respiratory distress.
- Policies must include the storing of bronchodilators in schools for emergency use.
- A bronchodilator may be administered to such a student regardless of whether the student has been diagnosed with asthma or reactive airway disease or has been prescribed a bronchodilator by a licensed health care practitioner.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Student Health

HB 204/SB 165 - Education - Coaches - Mental Health Training

- Requires each public school in the State that offers an athletic program and each public institution of higher education that offers an athletic program to provide specified mental health training to each participating coach.
- Requires MSDE, MDH, each local board of education, and the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) to develop guidelines for public schools to train coaches in recognizing the indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress in students (including depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse).
- MHEC must work with MDH to develop guidelines for public institutions of higher education to train coaches in recognizing the indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress in students.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Student Health

HB 522 - Public Schools - Student Telehealth Appointments - Policy and Access

- Requires MSDE and MDH to jointly to adopt State guidelines by Dec. 31, 2024 for school health services regarding student access to telehealth appointments during the school day in public middle and high schools.
- Requires each local board of education to establish a policy before the start of the 2025-2026 school year to accommodate students who need to participate in telehealth appointments scheduled during the school day.
- On request, MSDE must provide technical assistance to local boards to establish telehealth policies.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Student Health

HB 1219 - Public and Nonpublic Middle and High Schools - Venue-Specific Emergency Action Plans for Athletic Facilities (The Bailey Bullock Act)

- Requires each public middle and high school to include a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP) as a component of its venue-specific emergency action plan for athletic facilities.
- Requires all nonpublic middle and high schools receiving State funding to develop a venue-specific emergency action plan for athletic facilities, including a CERP, identical to the emergency action plans required of public middle and high schools.
- For both public and nonpublic schools, the CERP must (1) identify the appropriate school personnel as the cardiac emergency response team to respond to incidents involving sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while at an athletic facility; (2) coordinate with first responders in the local emergency medical services (EMS); (3) include core elements recommended by an appropriate national organization; and (4) be annually reviewed and updated by each middle school and high school.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Student Health

SB 1099 - Emergency Services - Automated External Defibrillator and Naloxone Co-Location Initiative - Requirements for Public Buildings

- Expands the purpose of the Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program (AED program) to include an initiative to co-locate up to two doses of naloxone with each automated external defibrillator (AED) placed in a “public building.”
- The definition of “public building” includes public high schools.
- The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board must (1) develop and implement the initiative in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and (2) adopt regulations jointly with MDH. The initiative must be funded using available funds from the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF).
- This bill takes effect October 1, 2024.

School Meals

HB 386/SB 425 - Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program - Alterations (Maryland Meals for Achievement Flexibility Act of 2024)

- Authorizes elementary schools participating in the Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) program to serve breakfast in any broadly accessible part of the school, including from “Grab and Go” carts after the arrival of students to the school, provided that students are allowed to consume the meal in the classroom after the start of the school day.
- Requires approval from MSDE and the local board of education.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

HB 785/SB 738 - Freedom to Read Act

- This emergency bill establishes a State policy that local school systems operate school library media programs consistent with specified standards.
- Each local school system is required to develop and implement a policy and procedures to review objections to materials in the school library media program, subject to certain requirements.
- A county board of education is prohibited from taking retaliatory actions against certain school library media program personnel for performing their job duties consistent with the standards.
- The bill similarly establishes that it is the policy of the State that each public library must operate in a manner consistent with the specified standards.
- Emergency bill taking effect upon the Governor's signature.

HB 785/SB 738 - Freedom to Read Act

The bill establishes that it is the policy of the State that each local school system operate its school library media program consistent with the following standards:

- The materials, services, and resources provided in a school library media program are provided for the interest, information, and instructional support of students and school personnel of the schools the program serves;
- Materials may not be excluded from a school library media program solely because of the origin, background, or views of the individual who created the material; and
- Materials may not be excluded or removed from the catalogue of a school library media program because of partisan, ideological, or religious disapproval.

Special Education

HB 336/SB 592 - Maryland Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program - Materials for Individualized Education Program, Individualized Family Service Plan, and 504 Plan Meetings

- Requires the State Treasurer to develop written informational materials about the Maryland Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE), which must be distributable electronically or by hand, and provide those materials to the State Board of Education and local boards of education for distribution to parents during individualized education program (IEP), individualized family service plan (IFSP), or 504 plan meetings as specified.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Special Education

HB 903/SB 797 - Education - Access to Attorneys, Advocates, and Consultants for Special Education Program and Fund - Established

- Establishes the Access to Attorneys, Advocates, and Consultants for Special Education (AAACSE) Program and Fund administered by the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS). The AAACSE Program directs resources and services to eligible students to provide access to legal, advocacy, and consultant services.
- Eligible students are those with a disability whose parent (1) has a household income not more than 150% of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) income guidelines and (2) made at least one attempt to resolve a disagreement with a public agency regarding the child's special education services or program.
- Beginning in FY 2026, the Governor must include \$1 million to the AAACSE Fund in the annual budget bill.
- Training for advocates and consultants to be developed in consultation with the MSDE, local school system special education directors, disability rights advocates, and representatives from the judiciary.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

School Safety

HB 416 - Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings - Requirements

- Prohibits active shooter drills or trainings in schools from including specified activities that may be traumatic for students or school personnel.
- Requires local school systems to (1) notify parents in advance of active shooter drills or trainings in schools; (2) provide mental health follow-up to students and school personnel after an active shooter drill or training; and (3) collect data on the effectiveness and psychological impact of the drills or trainings and report the data to the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) for further analysis.
- Requires MCSS to develop and distribute model content regarding the State's firearm storage laws, as specified.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

School Safety

HB 1167 - Maryland Center for School Safety - Secure Schools Emergency Response Grant Program - Established

- Establishes the Secure Schools Emergency Response Grant Program in the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS).
- The purpose of the program is to provide grants to local school systems to improve emergency notification systems and communication between public elementary and secondary school personnel, a public safety answering point (PSAP), and a public safety agency during emergency events.
- By September 1, 2026, MCSS must ensure that the program is operating and available to each local school board.
- The Governor may include an appropriation in the annual budget bill for the program.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

School Safety

SB 1077 - Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - School Security Employees

- Authorizes the Governor to provide \$15 million in fiscal 2026 and \$20 million in fiscal 2027 and each year thereafter to the Safe Schools Fund to provide grants to local school systems or law enforcement agencies to assist in providing adequate law enforcement coverage for public schools.
- Expands the authorized uses of the grant funds to include school security employees.
- Requires the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC), and the MSDE to jointly review the state of physical security in schools and the existing guidelines on school safety every two years.
- Local school systems must implement school security guidelines resulting from this review.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Juvenile Law

HB 814 - Juvenile Law - Reform

- This bill makes numerous changes to the juvenile justice process in the State, including (1) altering the jurisdiction of the juvenile court; (2) altering procedures relating to juvenile intake, complaints, detention, and probation; (3) repealing provisions relating to the State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services; (4) altering provisions relating to the Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging and Best Practices; and (5) altering reporting requirements for the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (JJMU), the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP), and the Department of Juvenile Service (DJS).
- The bill expands the juvenile court's jurisdiction to include a child who is at least age 10 and is alleged to have committed an act that would, if committed by an adult, be a crime involving weapons/firearms, animal abuse, certain sexual offenses, and theft of a motor vehicle.
- **The bill also generally prohibits a registered juvenile sex offender from entering onto public or private school property just as adult registrants.**

Juvenile Law

HB 814 - Juvenile Law - Reform

- Under current law, with exceptions, a sex offender registrant is generally prohibited from knowingly entering onto real property that is used for public or nonpublic school or childcare homes or a licensed childcare institution.
- The bill applies this prohibition to juvenile sex offender registrants. Under current law, a “juvenile registrant” means a person who is required to be included in the registry of juvenile sex offenders that is maintained by DJS separately from the sex offender registry.
- However, the bill does not amend the section of law allowing a student who is a sex offender registrant from participating in or attending a specific program approved by a county board of education; (2) a Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents; or (3) a certain nonpublic educational program as specified by law.
- Under current law, a person must be included in the juvenile sex offender registry if (1) the person has been adjudicated delinquent for an act that, if committed by an adult, would constitute rape in the first degree, rape in the second degree, or sexual offense in the third degree and (2) the person was a minor who was at least 14 years at the time the delinquent act was committed.

Juvenile Law

HB 814 - Juvenile Law - Reform

- The bill reduces from 25 days to 15 business days the number of days by which a DJS intake officer is required to make an inquiry to determine whether the juvenile court has jurisdiction and whether judicial action is in the best interests of the public or the child.
- The bill eliminates a statutory exception under which the DJS intake officer may not forward a complaint to the State Attorney.
- The bill expands the written reporting requirements for law enforcement officers taking a child into custody, including written reports on referrals to at-risk youth prevention and diversion programs, and in cases where no further action was taken.
- The bill extends the time limits on juvenile probation for misdemeanors and felonies.
- The bill takes effect November 1, 2024.

Artificial Intelligence

SB 818 - Information Technology - Artificial Intelligence - Policies and Procedures (Artificial Intelligence Governance Act of 2024)

- Codifies the AI Subcabinet of the Governor's Executive Council; and requires the subcabinet to develop an AI roadmap by Dec. 1, 2024 and complete a report by Dec. 1, 2025 (*including recommendations on the responsible and productive use of AI in local school systems*).
- Expands the responsibilities of the Secretary of Information Technology and Department of Information Technology (DoIT) related to the procurement and use of artificial intelligence (AI) by State agencies, including the establishment of AI policies and procedures.
- Requires public higher education institutions to establish policies and procedures related to the development, procurement, and use of AI.
- Requires units of State government to conduct data inventories, inventories of systems that use AI, and impact assessments of data systems that use AI.
- The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Local Bills Passed

- HB 108 (SB 451) - Baltimore County Board of Education - Nonstudent Member Compensation and Student Member Scholarships – Alterations
- HB 151 - Charles County Board of Education - Vacancy Procedures - Timing and Video Streaming and Archiving
- HB 376 - Study on the Feasibility of Relocating the Prince George's County Public School System Headquarters PG 501-24
- HB 495 (SB 78) - Education - Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission - Publishing and Meetings Requirements
- HB 515 (SB 114) - Workgroup to Study the Fiscal and Operational Viability of Public-Private Partnerships for Calvert County Public Schools
- HB 541 (SB 657) - Anne Arundel County - Student Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Educators – Established
- HB 761 - Montgomery County - School Bus Stops MC 6-24
- HB 821 (SB 654) - Prince George's County - Student Support - Specialist Networks and Success Action Plans (Student Supports and Success Act) PG 502-24

Local Bills Passed

- HB 971 (SB 851) - Washington County - Interscholastic Athletics - Student Eligibility Waiver and School Classification
- HB 995 (SB 852) - Washington County Board of Education - Members - Residency Requirement
- HB 1016 (SB1152) - Frederick County - School Construction Master Plan Workgroup
- HB 1409 - Dorchester County - Definition of Public School Employee – Alteration
- HB 1440 (SB1132) - Howard County Public Schools - Differences in Capital Budget Proposals - Report Ho. Co. 16-24
- HB 1450 (SB1186) - Howard County Task Force to Study Revenue Options for School Capital Needs Ho. Co. 18-24
- SB 191 - Prince George's County - Property Tax Credit - Public School Employees PG 503-24

Failed Bills - Highlights

HB 558 - Primary and Secondary Education - Comprehensive Health Education Framework - Established

- This bill would have required the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), to develop a comprehensive health education framework that includes, at a minimum, specified topics.
- Each local board of education must create an age-appropriate curriculum that is consistent with the comprehensive health education framework as specified.
- Each local board of education must establish policies, guidelines, and procedures for a parent or guardian to opt their student out of the family life and human sexuality topic.

Failed Bills - Highlights

SB 1058 - Education - Curriculum Standards - Antihate and Holocaust Education (Educate to Stop the Hate Act)

- This bill would have (1) established new statutory requirements and timelines for the development of curriculum and content standards in all subject areas by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE); (2) by January 1, 2025, require MSDE to review, revise, and adopt new social studies curriculum standards to include antihate education, as specified; (3) require each local board of education to establish curriculum guides and courses of study aligned with the content standards develop by MSDE; and (4) authorize the State Superintendent to withhold State funds from a local school system if the local board of education fails to establish curriculum resources and courses of study aligned with the content standard and curriculum standards developed by MSDE.

Failed Bills - Highlights

HB 1175 - Education - Public School Employers and Employees - Subcontracting for Services

- This bill would have prohibited a public school employer from entering into a subcontracting agreement that replaces or supplements any work performed by bargaining unit employees or following the expiration of an existing collective bargaining agreement, except under specified circumstances.
- Public school employee or exclusive representative affected by a violation of a local school system following the process could file an unfair labor practice with the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) and may be entitled to a remedy that may include reinstatement, back pay and benefits, tenure and seniority credit, attorney's fees, expert witness fees and related costs, and any other relief PERB deems appropriate.

Failed Bills - Highlights

HB 1237 - State Department of Education - Task Force to Study the Maryland Online Special Education System

- This bill would have established the Task Force to Study the Maryland Online Special Education System and provides for membership of the task force.
- MSDE must staff the task force, which was to study the system that includes both the Maryland Online Individualized Education Program and the Maryland Online Individualized Family Service Plan; and determine the availability of other platforms.
- The task force was to study the effectiveness, functionality, and usability of the Maryland Online Special Education System;

Failed Bills - Highlights

HB 196 - Motor Vehicles - School Buses - Seat Belts

- This bill would have required every school bus purchased on or after July 1, 2027, and registered in the State to be equipped with three-point seat belts that are accessible to passengers for every seat on the school bus.
- Local school systems must provide student instruction on school bus safety and the proper use of seat belts on school buses, as part of an existing program of safety education.
- The failure of a school bus operator to ensure that an occupant of a school bus was wearing a seat belt may not be the basis of a civil action for damages against the school bus operator or a school, school district, or municipality.
- Statewide fiscal impact estimated to be \$4.9 million.

Failed Bills - Highlights

HB 909 - Education - Local Share of Major Education Aid - Nonrecurring Costs Exclusion

- This bill would have authorized a local board of education and a county governing body to agree, on or before June 1 of each year, to designate “certain spending” that is in excess of the local share of major education aid as nonrecurring costs that are supplemental to the regular school operating budget and, therefore, excluded from the highest local appropriation that is used to determine maintenance of effort (MOE) for the following year.

Additional Resources

- [MABE's 2024 Session Advocacy Center](#)
 - MABE testimony on over 70 House bills and over 60 Senate bills
 - MABE Bill Report, including MABE's bill positions and status of over 400 bills
- [The 90 Day Report](#) – Comprehensive summary of the 2024 legislative session, including the operating and capital budgets. Department of Legislative Services (4/12/24)
- [General Assembly](#)
- [Department of Legislative Services](#)

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