

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 1

(Senator Conway, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Education - Specialized Intervention Services - Reports

This bill requires that, beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, each local board of education must, by December 1 of each year, submit a report on specialized intervention services to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The report must include information on the number of students in kindergarten through grade 3 receiving the services, the grades in which the services were provided, and the annual budget (including federal, State, and local funds) for the services.

MSDE must establish guidelines for the report that each local board must submit. MSDE and each local board of education must annually post the information required under the bill on their respective websites.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MSDE can develop reporting guidelines and receive and post to its website the information submitted by local school systems using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Local school systems may incur increased administrative expenditures in order to track information required by the bill, but any increase is expected to be minimal.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill defines “specialized intervention services” as services provided to kindergarten through grade 3 students who:

- are not currently identified as needing special education or related services;
- need additional academic and behavioral supports to succeed in a core curriculum and differentiated instruction general education environment; and
- receive additional academic and behavioral support in specified settings for at least 90 minutes per week and for at least 10 weeks in a school year.

Current Law: Local boards of education are not required to track the number of students receiving specialized education services (as defined by the bill), the amount budgeted for, or expenditures on this category of students.

Comprehensive Master Plans and Updates

Each local board of education must develop and implement a comprehensive master plan that describes the goals, objectives, and strategies that will be used to improve student achievement and meet State and local performance standards in each segment of the student population. Beginning in 2016, each local board must submit an annual update that covers a rolling five-year period for review and approval by the State Superintendent of Schools, on or before October 15 of each year.

The annual update must include a description of the alignment of the county board's budget with goals, objectives, and strategies for improving student achievement. As part of the update, each local board must submit a detailed summary of how the board's current year approved budget and increases in expenditures over the prior year are consistent with the master plan, and a summary of how the board's actual prior year budget and additional expenditures in the prior year's budget align with the master plan. If the State Superintendent determines that a plan or update will not have the effect of improving student achievement and increasing progress toward meeting State performance standards, the State Superintendent may require specific revisions to the plan or update.

Local Board of Education Budgets and Annual Financial Reports

Each local board of education must prepare an annual budget according to major categories, including: administration, including executive administration and business and centralized support services; mid-level administration, including the office of the school principal and staff administering and supervising school instructional programs; instructional salaries for teachers, aides, psychological personnel, guidance counselors, and library personnel; textbooks and classroom instructional supplies; other instructional costs; special education; student personnel services; health services; student transportation; operation of plant and equipment; maintenance of plant; fixed charges (such as rent and employee benefits); food services; and capital outlay.

Each local board of education is required to submit an Annual School Financial Report to the State Board of Education in accordance with major categories (summarized above) established by State law and additional specific revenue and expenditure areas as specified by MSDE's *Financial Reporting Manual for Maryland Public Schools*. MSDE draws upon this financial data provided by local school systems to produce an annual *Selected Financial Data* report, which includes a section on expenditures. The *Selected Financial Data* report presents information at the school system level. Each local board must also submit an annual budget to the county governing body, in accordance with the major categories and the financial reporting manual.

Local Fiscal Effect: According to MSDE, the term “specialized intervention services” currently does not have a standard definition that is used uniformly across local school systems. Local school systems may need to implement new administrative procedures in order to track information related to the number and grade level of students receiving specialized intervention services. Though the bill does not directly alter budgeting requirements for local boards of education, to fulfill the bill’s requirement of reporting budget information on the federal, State, and local levels with respect to students receiving specialized intervention services, additional budgeting mechanisms and efforts may be necessary. Although the reporting requirement is ongoing, any increase in expenditures is likely one-time and is assumed to be minimal. It is assumed that local school systems can post the required information to their respective websites using existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 24, 2017
mm/rhh Third Reader - March 20, 2017
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 20, 2017

Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510