

HOUSE BILL 1426

F1

4lr3191
CF SB 1102

By: **Chair, Ways and Means Committee**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Department of Education to award funding for a
4 new Judy Center or Family Support Center for planning and development under a
5 certain circumstance; altering the date by which the Accountability and
6 Implementation Board has to conduct and submit a certain independent evaluation;
7 requiring a nonclassroom teacher who pursues National Board Certification to
8 receive certain funding from the State under certain circumstances; altering
9 requirements for the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program; requiring each
10 local department of social services or local health department to provide each local
11 school system with certain information; altering the requirements for, and
12 expanding the purpose of, the Nancy Grasmick Public School Professional Award to
13 include early childhood educators; renaming the Nancy Grasmick Public School
14 Professional Award to be the Nancy Grasmick School Professional Award; altering
15 the date by which the Career and Technical Education Committee shall establish
16 certain goals; altering the date by which the CTE Committee must report on the
17 progress on obtaining a certain goal; extending the fiscal year for which per pupil
18 funding increases may be limited under a certain circumstance; and generally
19 relating to the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

20 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
21 Article – Education
22 Section 5–230(a)(1), (6) through (10), and (12), (b), and (d), 5–410(a) and (b), and
23 7–101.2(a)(1), (6), and (7) and (b)(1) and (2)
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

26 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
27 Article – Education
28 Section 5–230(c), 5–410(c) and (d)(1), 6–1012, 7–101.2(c)(1), 7–1A–02, 9.5–1002,
29 18–1501, 18–1502, 18–1503, and 21–204

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Chapter 36 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2021
Section 16(d) through (f)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

5–230.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(6) “Full day” means a period of time during the day that:

(i) Meets the needs of families; and

(ii) Is not less than 7 hours or more than 12 hours per day.

(7) “Judy Center” means a site where comprehensive early childhood education services are provided to young children and their families for the purpose of promoting school readiness through collaboration with participating agencies and programs.

(8) “Judy Center Grant” means a grant that is distributed under subsection (d) of this section.

(9) “Local management board” means a local management board as defined under § 8–101(l) of the Human Services Article.

(10) “Participating agencies and programs” includes:

(i) Public prekindergarten and kindergarten programs;

(ii) Head Start programs;

(iii) Family literacy programs and services;

(iv) Local infants and toddlers programs;

(v) Child care centers and family child care homes;

(vi) Family support centers;

(vii) Healthy family sites;

(viii) Parent involvement programs;

(ix) Early childhood programs affiliated with institutions of higher education; and

(x) Other home visiting, community health, family support services, and child care resource and referral agencies.

(12) "Program" means the Judith P. Hoyer Early Childhood Education Enhancement Program established under this section.

(b) (1) There is a Judith P. Hoyer Early Childhood Education Enhancement Program in the Department.

(2) The purpose of the Program is to promote school readiness through the development and expansion of collaborative approaches to the delivery of high quality, comprehensive, full-day early childhood education programs and family support services.

(c) (1) The Program shall be funded as provided in the State budget.

(2) Funds that are allocated to the Program in the State budget may be used:

(i) To cover the costs incurred by the Department in implementing and administering the Program;

(ii) For Judy Center Grants[, as]:

1. AS provided under subsection (d) of this section; AND

2. IF THE DEPARTMENT AWARDS MULTIYEAR FUNDING UNDER SUBSECTION (H) OF THIS SECTION, FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF A JUDY CENTER IN THE FIRST YEAR OF MULTIYEAR FUNDING;

(iii) For Preschool Services Grants, as provided under subsection (e) of this section;

(iv) For Early Childhood Education Enhancement Grants, as provided under subsection (f) of this section; and

(v) To fund the statewide implementation of the Department's Early Childhood Assessment System, as provided under subsection (g) of this section.

(3) (i) For each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025, the State shall provide funding for 9 additional Judy Centers per year.

(ii) For each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030, the State shall provide funding for 18 additional Judy Centers per year.

(iii) The Governor shall appropriate, in each of fiscal years 2021 through 2030, \$330,000 for each additional Judy Center required under this paragraph.

(iv) The State shall prioritize increasing the number of Judy Centers in communities with Title I schools.

(d) The Department may distribute a Judy Center Grant to a county board if the county board submits an application to the Department that includes:

(1) A memorandum of understanding between the county board, the participating agencies and programs, and, in the discretion of the county board, the local management board that includes:

(i) The terms of the collaboration to be undertaken by the county board, the participating agencies and programs, and, if applicable, the local management board, including the roles and responsibilities of each of these entities; and

(ii) A plan for establishing ongoing communication between private service providers and public school early education programs; and

(2) Documentation that shows that:

(i) The Department's Early Childhood Assessment System will be implemented at the Center;

(ii) All participating agencies and programs that provide early childhood education services through the Center have voluntarily obtained accreditation or, by the date of the Grant application, have voluntarily initiated and are actively pursuing the process of obtaining accreditation; and

(iii) The Center will provide comprehensive, full-day early childhood education services and family support services.

5-410.

(a) In addition to its own assessments and tracking of progress, required under § 5-406 of this subtitle, the Board shall contract with a public or private entity to conduct an independent evaluation of the State's progress in implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and achieving the expected outcomes during the implementation period.

(b) The independent evaluation shall include an assessment of:

1 (1) The use of additional funding to meet the goals of the Blueprint for
2 Maryland's Future;

3 (2) Progress toward the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and
4 whether the goals have been achieved; and

5 (3) Any recommendations to alter the goals or strategies employed to reach
6 the goals, including new uses for existing funds or additional funding.

7 (c) (1) An entity with which the Board contracts for an independent evaluation
8 shall report its results to the Board on or before:

9 (i) [October 1, 2024] **DECEMBER 1, 2026**; and

10 (ii) October 1, 2030.

11 (2) The Board shall contract for each independent evaluation as soon as
12 practicable.

13 (d) (1) (i) On or before [December 1, 2024] **JANUARY 15, 2027**, the Board
14 shall, using the first independent evaluation and its own judgment, report to the Governor
15 and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly
16 on whether the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is being implemented as intended and
17 achieving the expected outcomes.

18 (ii) The Board's report shall include an assessment of the State's
19 progress towards:

20 1. Increasing the number of teachers achieving National
21 Board Certification;

22 2. Providing full-day prekindergarten programs for 3- and
23 4-year-olds in accordance with Title 7, Subtitle 1A of this article;

24 3. Improving behavioral health services in accordance with §
25 7–447 of this article; and

26 4. Ensuring that students enrolled in public schools meet
27 college and career standards in accordance with § 7–205.1 of this article.

28 (iii) The Board's report shall include any legislative or structural
29 corrections necessary to fully implement the Blueprint.

30 6–1012.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “NONCLASSROOM TEACHER” MEANS A POSITION IN A SCHOOL FOR WHICH, IF THE INDIVIDUAL EARNES NBC, THE INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE TO JOIN THE CAREER LADDER, INCLUDING:

(1) ADMINISTRATORS;

(2) ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS;

(3) INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALISTS; AND

(4) PRINCIPALS.

[(a)] (B) (1) Except as provided under paragraph (2) of this subsection, each teacher **OR NONCLASSROOM TEACHER** who pursues NBC shall receive from the State an amount equal to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards fees associated with the initial completion and renewal of NBC.

(2) Each teacher **AND NONCLASSROOM TEACHER** may only receive payment under this subsection for one retake of each assessment on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

[(b)] (C) Each county shall pay to the State one-third of the cost for each teacher **OR NONCLASSROOM TEACHER** who receives funds under subsection [(a)] (B) of this section to pursue NBC.

[(c)] (D) (1) A teacher **OR A NONCLASSROOM TEACHER** who does not complete all the requirements for assessment by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards shall reimburse the State the full amount of the funds received under subsection [(a)] (B) of this section.

(2) The State shall reimburse the county the amount received under subsection [(b)] (C) of this section on receipt of the reimbursement from a teacher **OR NONCLASSROOM TEACHER** under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(3) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection do not apply to a teacher **OR NONCLASSROOM TEACHER** who completes all the requirements for assessment by the National Board [of] **FOR** Professional Teaching Standards but does not obtain NBC.

7–101.2.

(a) (1) In this section the following terms have the meanings indicated.

(6) “Program” means the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program.

(7) “Qualified provider” means:

(i) If partnering with a county board under a memorandum of understanding, a State accredited or nationally accredited child care program or a nonpublic school approved by the Department to provide prekindergarten services; and

(ii) A county board.

(b) (1) There is a grant program known as the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program in the State.

(2) The purpose of the Program is to broaden the availability of high-quality prekindergarten and school readiness services throughout the State for children and their families in coordination with the expansion of publicly funded full-day prekindergarten under the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future established under Subtitle 1A of this title.

(c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, before approving qualified providers for prekindergarten services to receive a grant under this section, a qualified provider shall certify to the Department that for each classroom funded under this section the provider will:

(i) Maintain a student-to-classroom personnel ratio of no more than 10 to 1 with a maximum of 20 children per classroom;

(ii) Provide in each classroom at least one teacher certified in early childhood education by the State **OR ONE TEACHER WITH A BACHELOR’S DEGREE WHO PLANS TO PURSUE A STATE CERTIFICATION FOR TEACHING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION** and at least one teacher’s aide who has at least a high school degree;

(iii) Operate an educational program for:

1. 5 days per week;

2. 180 days per year, in accordance with the public school calendar established by the local school board; and

3. A. For half-day programs, at least 2.5 hours per day;
or

B. For full-day programs, at least 6.5 hours per day; and

(iv) To receive a grant under this section, meet the requirements of § 7-1A-04 of this title.

7-1A-02.

(a) (1) A local department of social services or a local health department shall provide a parent or guardian with oral and written notice that their child may be eligible for publicly funded prekindergarten programs if the parent or guardian:

(i) Applied for economic services with the local department of social services or the local health department; and

(ii) Has a child who will be 3 or 4 years old by September 1 of the next academic year.

(2) The notice required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include:

(i) Contact information for the enrollment office of the local school system and the Division of Early Childhood Development in the Department; and

(ii) Information on the existence of the child care scholarship for before and after full-day prekindergarten programming and the possibility of eligibility for State aid.

(3) On or before December 1 of each year, each local department of social services and each local health department shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on the number of parents who were given a notification and subsequently enrolled their child in a publicly funded prekindergarten program.

(B) EACH LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OR A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE TO EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM THE NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR EACH PARENT OR GUARDIAN PROVIDED NOTICE UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

~~[(b)]~~ (C) The requirements set forth in § 7-101(b) of this title regarding the domicile of a child and the residency of the child's parent or guardian shall apply to prekindergarten programs established by county boards as required by this subtitle.

9.5-1002.

(a) A family support center shall be known as a "Patty Center".

(b) A family support center shall provide parents and their children with a hospitable and constructive environment and services that:

(1) Improve parenting skills;

(2) Develop the family as a functioning unit; and

(3) Promote the growth and development of their children.

(c) (1) (i) For fiscal year 2021, the State shall provide funding for six additional centers.

(ii) For each of fiscal years 2022 through 2029, the State shall provide funding for three additional centers per fiscal year.

(2) The Governor shall appropriate in each of fiscal years 2021 through 2030 \$330,000 for each additional center required under this subsection.

(d) The Department shall select the location for the centers funded under subsection (c) of this section.

(E) (1) A FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER MAY RECEIVE MULTIYEAR FUNDING.

(2) IF A FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER RECEIVES MULTIYEAR FUNDING, FUNDING MAY BE USED FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIRST YEAR OF FUNDING FOR THE FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER.

18–1501.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(B) “EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR” MEANS AN EMPLOYEE AT AN ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER AS DEFINED UNDER § 7–1A–01 OF THIS ARTICLE WHO:

(1) IS A TEACHER HOLDING, AT A MINIMUM:

(I) STATE CERTIFICATION FOR TEACHING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION; OR

(II) A BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN ANY FIELD AND WHO IS PURSUING RESIDENCY THROUGH THE MARYLAND APPROVED ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION PROGRAM, WHICH INCLUDES EARLY CHILDHOOD COURSEWORK, CLINICAL PRACTICE, AND EVIDENCE OF PEDAGOGICAL CONTENT KNOWLEDGE; OR

(2) IS A TEACHING ASSISTANT HOLDING, AT A MINIMUM:

(I) A CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE CERTIFICATE; OR

(II) AN ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE.

[(b)] (C) (1) “Eligible field of employment” means, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, employment in the State by an organization,

1 institution, association, society, or corporation that is exempt from taxation under §
2 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

3 (2) “Eligible field of employment” includes employment by the State or any
4 local government in the State, but does not include being employed as a judicial clerk in
5 any court.

6 (3) **“ELIGIBLE FIELD OF EMPLOYMENT” MEANS, FOR AN EARLY**
7 **CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR, EMPLOYMENT AT AN ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN**
8 **PROVIDER, AS DEFINED IN § 7-1A-01 OF THIS ARTICLE, THAT RECEIVES FUNDING**
9 **UNDER § 7-101.2 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

10 [(c)] (D) “Higher education loan” means any loan for undergraduate or graduate
11 study that is obtained for tuition, educational expenses, or living expenses from:

12 (1) A college or university, government, or commercial source; or

13 (2) An organization, institution, association, society, or corporation that is
14 exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

15 [(d)] (E) (1) “Mental health professional” means an individual who provides
16 mental health services in public schools and is employed by:

17 (i) A county school system; or

18 (ii) A local health department to provide school health services
19 through an agreement with a county board.

20 (2) “Mental health professional” includes a school psychologist, resource
21 psychologist, psychologist coordinator, social worker, social worker supervisor, school
22 counselor, or mental health coordinator.

23 [(e)] (F) “Program” means the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment
24 Program.

25 18-1502.

26 (a) There is a program of loan assistance repayment known as the Janet L.
27 Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program in the State.

28 (b) The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall assist in the repayment of
29 the amount of any higher education loan owed by an individual who:

30 (1) (i) Receives a graduate, professional, or undergraduate degree from:

31 1. A college or university in the State of Maryland;

1 2. A school of law; or

2 3. For a mental health professional, any accredited college or
3 university; or

4 (ii) Receives a Resident Teacher Certificate (RTC) from the
5 Department after completing an alternative teaching preparation program approved by the
6 State Superintendent;

7 (2) Obtains eligible employment;

8 (3) Receives an income that is less than the maximum eligible total income
9 levels established by the Office, including any additional sources of income; and

10 (4) Satisfies any other criteria established by the Office.

11 (c) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the Office shall assist
12 in the repayment of the amount of any higher education loan owed by [a]:

13 (1) [Public] **A PUBLIC** school teacher in the State who:

14 (i) Has taught in Maryland for at least 2 years:

15 1. In science, technology, engineering, fine arts, or math
16 subjects;

17 2. In a school in which at least the following percentages of
18 the students are enrolled in the free and reduced price lunch program in the State:

19 A. 75% through June 30, 2025; and

20 B. 55% beginning July 1, 2025; or

21 3. In a school that:

22 A. Had Title I status during the 2018–2019 school year;

23 B. Lost Title I status after the 2018–2019 school year; and

24 C. Participates in the United States Department of
25 Agriculture Community Eligibility Provision; and

26 (ii) Has received a performance evaluation rating for the most recent
27 year available in the county in which the teacher taught; [or]

28 (2) [Mental] **A MENTAL** health professional who has provided mental
29 health services in a public school for at least 2 years as an employee of:

(i) A county school system; or

(ii) A local health department through an agreement with a county board; OR

(3) AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR WHO IS EMPLOYED FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS BY AN ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER, AS DEFINED IN § 7-1A-01 OF THIS ARTICLE, THAT RECEIVES FUNDING UNDER § 7-101.2 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(d) (1) A grant awarded under subsection (c) of this section shall be known as the Nancy Grasmick [Public] School Professional Award.

(2) A recipient of a Nancy Grasmick [Public] School Professional Award shall be known as a Nancy Grasmick [Public] School Professional Scholar.

(e) An applicant for assistance in the repayment of a commercial loan shall demonstrate to the Office that the commercial loan was used for tuition, educational expenses, or living expenses for graduate or undergraduate study.

(f) Assistance in the repayment of a loan from an entity set forth in § 18-1501(c)(2) of this subtitle shall require the approval of the Office.

(g) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the Office shall assist in the repayment of the amount of any higher education loan owed by a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor, a licensed clinical marriage and family therapy counselor, or a licensed clinical professional counselor whose practice is located in a high-need geographic area of the State as determined by the Maryland Department of Health.

18-1503.

(a) The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall adopt regulations to establish:

(1) The maximum starting income for eligibility in the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program;

(2) The maximum total income for eligibility in the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program, including any additional sources of income;

(3) That priority for participation in the Program shall be given to an individual who:

(i) Graduated from an institution of higher education in the last 3 years;

(ii) Is a resident of the State;

(iii) Is employed on a full-time basis; and

(iv) 1. Provides, as the principal part of the individual's employment, legal services to low-income residents in the State who cannot afford legal services, nursing services in nursing shortage areas in the State as defined in § 18-802 of this title, or other services in an eligible field of employment in which there is a shortage of qualified practitioners to low-income or underserved residents or areas of the State; or

2. For teacher [and], mental health professional, **AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR** applicants only, qualifies for a Nancy Grasmick [Public] School Professional Award;

(4) A limit on the total amount of assistance provided by the Office of Student Financial Assistance in repaying the loan of an eligible individual, based on the individual's total income and outstanding higher education loan balance;

(5) A procedure and schedule for the monthly or annual payment of the amount of loan assistance provided by the Office of Student Financial Assistance to the eligible individual, as appropriate to assist an eligible individual in meeting loan forgiveness program requirements;

(6) A requirement that an eligible individual apply to federal loan forgiveness programs for which the individual may qualify;

(7) A requirement that an eligible individual notify the Office of Student Financial Assistance if the individual receives other loan repayment assistance; and

(8) An annual review of the eligibility of each individual participating in the Program.

(b) The Office of Student Financial Assistance shall adopt any other regulations necessary to implement this subtitle.

21-204.

(a) (1) On or before [December 1, 2022] **JUNE 1, 2024**, the CTE Committee shall establish, for each school year between the 2023-2024 school year and the 2030-2031 school year, inclusive, statewide goals that reach 45% by the 2030-2031 school year, for the percentage of high school students who, prior to graduation, complete the high school level of a registered apprenticeship or an industry-recognized occupational credential.

(2) To the extent practicable, the CTE Committee shall ensure that the largest number of students achieve the requirement of this subsection by completing a high

1 school level of a registered apprenticeship program approved by the Division of Workforce
2 Development and Adult Learning within the Maryland Department of Labor.

3 (b) On or before December 1 each year, beginning in **[2022] 2024**, the CTE
4 Committee shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State
5 Government Article, the General Assembly, and the Accountability and Implementation
6 Board on the progress, by high school, toward attaining the goals established by the CTE
7 Committee in accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

8 Chapter 36 of the Acts of 2021

9 SECTION 16. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

10 (d) In the independent evaluation and report to be submitted to the Governor and
11 the General Assembly on or before **[December 1, 2024] JANUARY 15, 2027**, as required
12 under § 5–410(d)(1) of the Education Article as enacted by this Act, the Accountability and
13 Implementation Board shall report whether the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future is being
14 implemented as intended and is achieving expected outcomes.

15 (e) (1) If the Accountability and Implementation Board does not report that
16 the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future is being implemented as intended and is achieving
17 expected outcomes in accordance with subsection (d) of this section, then:

18 (i) notwithstanding any other provision of law, per pupil increases
19 in major education aid required under this Act for fiscal year **[2026] 2028** and each year
20 thereafter shall be limited to the rate of inflation as defined in § 5–201(h) of the Education
21 Article as enacted by this Act;

22 (ii) notwithstanding any other provision of law, any additional
23 funding increases required under this Act shall be limited to the rate of inflation as defined
24 in § 5–201(h) of the Education Article as enacted by this Act; and

25 (iii) subject to subsection (f) of this section and notwithstanding any
26 other provision of law, local school systems are not required to meet the additional
27 requirements of this Act that begin in fiscal year **[2026] 2028** and each fiscal year
28 thereafter.

29 (2) If the Accountability and Implementation Board reports that the
30 Blueprint for Maryland’s Future is not being implemented as intended and is not achieving
31 expected outcomes, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the General Assembly
32 shall take immediate action to adjust the formula and policies under this Act to achieve the
33 goals of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future in order to fulfill the General Assembly’s
34 commitment to provide the resources, supports, and funding to fully implement the
35 Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

36 (f) A local school system shall continue to fund the requirements of this Act in
37 effect prior to fiscal year **[2026] 2028**.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
2 1, 2024.