

HOUSE BILL 1625

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By: **Delegate M. Fisher**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2020

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Concentration of Poverty School Grants – Authorized Use**

3 FOR the purpose of stating the purpose of the Concentration of Poverty School Grant
4 Program; altering the fiscal years during which the State is required to distribute a
5 certain grant to each county board of education; repealing the requirement that a
6 county board distribute certain funds to each eligible school; repealing the
7 requirement that the State distribute a certain amount to the State Department of
8 Education for a certain purpose; repealing the authorization for a local school system
9 to expend certain funds under certain circumstances; repealing the requirement that
10 an eligible school employ certain staff or provide certain coverage; repealing the
11 requirement that, if a county provides certain positions or services from funds made
12 outside a certain appropriation in a certain fiscal year, the county continue to provide
13 certain positions or services in certain fiscal years; repealing the requirement that
14 certain eligible schools use certain funds to provide wraparound services to students
15 enrolled in the schools or to complete a certain assessment, subject to certain
16 circumstances; requiring each county board to use the grants to provide funds for
17 certain scholarships and programs; providing that scholarships provided under the
18 Program shall be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible students;
19 requiring each county board to determine the amount of each individual scholarship;
20 requiring each county board to establish certain application and award policies and
21 procedures; making certain conforming changes; defining a certain term; repealing
22 certain definitions; and generally relating to authorized uses for concentration of
23 poverty school grants.

24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
25 Article – Education
26 Section 5–203
27 Annotated Code of Maryland
28 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

29 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

5–203.

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

[(2) “Community school” means a public school that establishes a set of strategic partnerships between the school and other community resources that promote student achievement, positive learning conditions, and the well-being of students by providing wraparound services.]

[(3)] (2) “Eligible for free or reduced price meals” means eligible for free or reduced price meals based on eligibility requirements established by the United States Department of Agriculture.

(3) “**ELIGIBLE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT**” MEANS A STUDENT WHO ATTENDS A PUBLIC SCHOOL WITH A COMPOSITE SCORE, AS ESTABLISHED UNDER § 7–203(C)(2)(V) OF THIS ARTICLE, THAT IS 45% OR LESS OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE COMPOSITE SCORE.

(4) (i) “Eligible school” means a public school in which at least 80% of the students were eligible:

1. For fiscal year 2020, for free or reduced price meals in the 2017–2018 school year; and

2. For fiscal year 2021, for free or reduced price meals in the:

A. 2017–2018 school year; or

B. 2018–2019 school year.

(ii) “Eligible school” does not include a school that is eligible to receive funding under this section but has closed.

(5) “Program” means the Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program established under this section.

[(6) “Trauma-informed intervention” means a method for understanding and responding to an individual with symptoms of chronic interpersonal trauma or traumatic stress.

(7) “Wraparound services” includes:

(i) Extended learning time, including before and after school, weekends, summer school, and an extended school year;

(ii) Safe transportation to school;

(iii) Vision and dental care services;

(iv) Establishing or expanding school-based health center services;

(v) Additional social workers, mentors, counselors, psychologists, and restorative practice coaches;

(vi) Enhancing physical wellness, including providing healthy food for in-school and out-of-school time and linkages to community providers;

(vii) Enhancing behavioral health services, including access to mental health practitioners and providing professional development to school staff to provide trauma-informed interventions;

(viii) Providing family and community engagement and supports, including informing parents of academic course offerings, language classes, workforce development training, opportunities for children, and available social services as well as educating families on how to monitor a child's learning;

(ix) Establishing and enhancing linkages to Judy Centers and other early education programs that feed into the school;

(x) Enhancing student enrichment experiences;

(xi) Improving student attendance;

(xii) Improving the learning environment at the school; and

(xiii) Any other professional development for teachers and school staff to quickly identify students who are in need of these resources.]

(b) (1) There is a Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program in the State.

(2) The purpose of the Program is to provide **CONCENTRATION OF POVERTY SCHOOL** grants to [eligible schools with a high concentration of students who are eligible for free or reduced price meals] **COUNTY BOARDS**.

(c) [(1) (i)] For each of fiscal years [2020 and 2021] **2021 AND 2022**, the State shall distribute a grant to each county board equal to \$248,833 for each eligible school in the county.

1 [(ii) Except as provided in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, each
2 county board shall distribute directly to each eligible school an amount equal to \$248,833.

3 (iii) If a local school system has at least 40 eligible schools, the county
4 board may, on behalf of eligible schools, expend the funds distributed by the State under
5 this paragraph, provided that a plan is developed in consultation with the eligible schools
6 that ensures that the requirements of subsection (d) of this section are met.

7 (2) For each of fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the State shall distribute to the
8 Department an amount equal to \$126,170 to fund one director of community schools in the
9 Department.

10 (d) (1) (i) Each eligible school shall employ one community school
11 coordinator staff position in the eligible school.

12 (ii) 1. Each eligible school shall provide full-time coverage by at
13 least one professional health care practitioner during school hours, including any extended
14 learning time, who is a licensed physician, a licensed physician's assistant, or a licensed
15 registered nurse, practicing within the scope of the health care practitioner's license.

16 2. A health care practitioner providing coverage under this
17 subparagraph may work under a school health services program, a county health
18 department, or a school-based health center.

19 3. This subparagraph may not be construed to:

20 A. Require that an eligible school hire a full-time health care
21 practitioner staff position; or

22 B. Preclude the hiring of any other health care practitioners
23 that meet the needs of the students.

24 (2) Each eligible school shall use the grant to fund the requirements under
25 paragraph (1) of this subsection.

26 (3) If the grant provided to an eligible school exceeds the cost to employ the
27 positions and provide the coverage required under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the
28 eligible school may only use the excess funds to provide:

29 (i) Wraparound services to the students enrolled in the eligible
30 school; and

31 (ii) The assessment required under subsection (e) of this section.

32 (4) If an eligible school, as of June 30, 2019, employs an individual in a
33 position or has the coverage required under paragraph (1) of this subsection, at least the
34 same amount of funds shall be provided to the eligible school to be used for those positions

1 or coverage in fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

2 (e) (1) The community school coordinator shall be responsible for establishing
3 a community school, including completing an assessment by July 1, 2020, of the needs of
4 the students in the school for appropriate wraparound services to enhance the success of
5 all students in the school.

6 (2) The assessment performed under this subsection shall:

7 (i) Be done in collaboration with:

8 1. The principal;

9 2. A school health care practitioner; and

10 3. A parent teacher organization or a school family council;
11 and

12 (ii) Include an assessment of the physical, behavioral, and emotional
13 health needs of students, their families, and their communities.

14 (f) A county that provides a school nurse, school health services, or community
15 school services from funds outside of those made in the fiscal year 2019 local appropriation
16 to the county board shall continue to provide at least the same resources to an eligible
17 school in fiscal years 2020 and 2021.]

18 **(D) EACH COUNTY BOARD MAY USE THE GRANT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR:**

19 **(1) SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ELIGIBLE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**
20 **ATTENDING SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY TO ATTEND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS THROUGH**
21 **DIRECT VOUCHERS;**

22 **(2) SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE FREE OR REDUCED PRICED MEALS TO**
23 **STUDENTS; OR**

24 **(3) ANY OTHER PROGRAM DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE COUNTY**
25 **BOARD TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM.**

26 **(E) (1) THE SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED TO ELIGIBLE PUBLIC SCHOOL**
27 **STUDENTS TO ATTEND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ELIGIBLE**
28 **STUDENTS ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.**

29 **(2) THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF EACH**
30 **INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR AN ELIGIBLE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT TO ATTEND**
31 **A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.**

1 **(3) THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH APPLICATION AND AWARD**
2 **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SECTION.**

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
4 1, 2020.