

HOUSE BILL 1262

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5lr2889

By: **Delegate Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **County Boards of Education – Post College and Career Readiness Pathways –**
3 **Payment of Costs**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a county board of education to develop and establish income
5 eligibility guidelines and procedures for payment of costs for a certain post college
6 and career readiness pathway, except under certain circumstances; and generally
7 relating to post college and career readiness pathways.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 7–205.1(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Education
15 Section 7–205.1(g)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Education**

21 7–205.1.

22 (a) In this section, “CCR standard” means the college and career readiness
23 standards established under this section.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(g) (1) Subject to [paragraph] **PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (4)** of this subsection, [beginning in the 2023–2024 school year,] each county board shall provide all students who meet the CCR standard required under subsection (c) of this section with access to the following post college and career readiness (post–CCR) pathways, at no cost to the student or the student’s parents, including the cost of any fees:

(i) A competitive entry college preparatory program, chosen by the county board, consisting of:

1. The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program;
2. The Cambridge AICE Diploma Program; or
3. A comparable program consisting of Advanced Placement courses specified by the College Board;

(ii) A program that allows a student, through an early college program or dual enrollment at a student’s high school and an institution of higher education to earn:

1. An associate degree; or
2. At least 60 credits toward a bachelor’s degree; and

(iii) A robust set of career and technology education programs that are recommended by the CTE Skills Standards Advisory Committee and approved by the CTE Committee and that allow students to complete:

1. A credit or noncredit certificate or license program, course, or sequence of courses, including a program, course, or courses taken through dual enrollment under § 15–127 of this article, at a secondary or postsecondary institution, through an Advanced Placement course at a secondary institution, or through an apprenticeship sponsor that leads to an industry recognized occupational–credential or postsecondary certificate;
2. A registered apprenticeship program approved by the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning within the Maryland Department of Labor; or
3. A youth apprenticeship program, under Title 18, Subtitle 18 of this article.

(2) **(I) [Each] SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, EACH** public high school shall provide access to the programs described under paragraph (1) of this subsection through that public school or through another public school in the county.

(II) 1. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, A COUNTY BOARD MAY DEVELOP AND ESTABLISH INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR PAYMENT OF COSTS FOR THE POST-CCR PATHWAY UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

2. A STUDENT WITH A FAMILY INCOME BELOW 400% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL SHALL BE PROVIDED ACCESS TO THE POST-CCR PATHWAY UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION AT NO COST TO THE STUDENT OR THE STUDENT'S PARENTS.

(3) (i) Each student who meets the CCR standard required under subsection (c) of this section shall be enrolled in at least one post-CCR pathway described in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(ii) Each student who enrolls in a post-CCR pathway shall remain enrolled in the student's public high school.

(iii) Each public high school shall provide to every student, regardless of whether the student is enrolled in a post-CCR pathway, the full range of services to which the student is entitled, including:

1. Personal, career, and academic advising; and

2. Counseling, in accordance with § 7-126 of this title, to help the student choose one or more post-CCR pathways, or courses within a post-CCR pathway, that fits with the student's educational and career goals.

(iv) Priority for counseling and advising services described under subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph shall be given to students who have not met the CCR standard by the end of 10th grade.

(v) Any high school graduation requirements that a student does not meet by the time the student has completed the assessment required under subsection (d) of this section shall be provided within the post-CCR pathway the student chooses.

(4) To phase in expansion of dual enrollment to maximize the number of students who can earn the maximum number of dual enrollment credits consistent with the phased increases in school funding, for fiscal years 2025 through 2027, the State Board and the Accountability and Implementation Board, in consultation with each local school system, may limit the number and types of courses that a student dually enrolled at the student's public high school and at an institution of higher education may enroll in during the school year at the institution of higher education as part of the post-CCR pathway in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection and § 15-127 of this article.

(5) (i) The State Board shall adopt regulations to carry out this subsection.

(ii) The regulations shall include standards that:

1. Guarantee, to the extent practicable, statewide uniformity in the quality of the post-CCR pathways;
2. Meet the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection; and
3. Require high school graduation credit to be awarded for any programs administered in accordance with this subsection.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.