

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: March 22, 2005
TO: **Board of Education**
FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent
SUBJECT: **LEGISLATION UPDATE**
ORIGINATOR: Kara Calder, Chief Communications Officer

RECOMMENDATION

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That the Board of Education consider taking positions on Key School Legislation.

Attachment I – Key School Legislation Summary
Attachment II – Senate and House Bills

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
KEY SCHOOL LEGISLATION
March 22, 2005

UPDATES ON LEGISLATION PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED

(*Status is as of 3/16/2005)

HB 143 - Education - Public Schools - Use of Asthma Drugs and Related Medication

This bill would require public school systems to adopt a policy authorizing a student to possess and self-administer specified medication pertaining to the student's asthma or other airway-constricting disease while in school, at school-sponsored activities, or on school property. It requires prior written approval from a student's health practitioner and parent or legal guardian before a student can self-administer medication and requires that the school nurse conduct a specified review.

Board of Education position: Support

*Status: passed House with amendments

HB 227 – Education - Arrest for Reportable Offenses – Notification

This bill would expand the requirement that law enforcement agencies notify local superintendents of public schools of arrests for reportable offenses to include arrests of all students. It also more clearly defines "student" as an individual enrolled in a public school system in the State who is 5 years old or older and under 21 years of age.

Board of Education position: Support

*Status: passed the House with amendments

HB 330 - Education - National Board Certified Teachers - Stipend Eligibility

This legislation is one of three bills under consideration that would aid in the expansion and promotion of national board certification for teachers in Maryland.

Specifically this bill would expand the stipend eligibility for specified teachers to include an individual who has been assigned or promoted from classroom teacher to an instructional or classroom support position. Currently these teachers are ineligible for the stipend.

Board of Education position: Support

*Status: unchanged

HB 389 - Teachers - Certification - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Course Credit

This bill would require that the State Superintendent of Schools and the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board require applicants for a teacher's certificate to complete a minimum number of semester hours covering Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and to determine the minimum number of specified semester hours required for a teacher's certificate. This would provide teachers the advantage of the necessary technical training to support teaching and learning with students affected by such disorders.

Board of Education position: Support with amendments

*Status: unchanged

HB 560 - Education - State Aid for Public Elementary and Secondary Education - Trigger Provision – Repeal

This bill would repeal the provision of law that makes annual per pupil foundation aid for education contingent on the adoption of a joint resolution by the General Assembly if State aid for public elementary and secondary education exceeds a specified threshold and repeals the provision that limits the annual per pupil foundation aid to a specified amount if the joint resolution is not adopted.

Board of Education position: Support

*Status: unchanged

HB 579 - Pilot Program to Study and Improve Screening Practices for Autism Spectrum Disorders

This bill would establish a Pilot Program to Study and Improve Screening Practices for Autism Spectrum Disorders in the Department of Education and would require the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to establish relationships with specified providers to participate in the Pilot Program. It also provides that training materials be developed and that written information on early detection of autism spectrum disorders be distributed.

Such a pilot program could serve as a model to schools for the early identification and intervention of students with autism and related disorders.

Board of Education position: Support

*Status: favorable committee report

HB 641 - Education - Comprehensive Master Plan Updates - Due Dates

This bill would alter the date by which county boards of education must submit master plan updates and other information to the State Department of Education and alter the date by which the State Superintendent of Schools must report to the General Assembly.

This change was requested by MSDE at the suggestion of schools to provide more time for schools to assess and adjust plans based on testing data.

Board of Education position: Support

*Status: favorable committee report

HB899 Education - Geographic Cost of Education Index – Funding

This bill would require the State to provide a grant to specified county boards of education to reflect regional differences in the cost of education that are due to factors outside the control of local jurisdictions beginning in fiscal year 2006. While the GCEI was identified in the Thornton legislation, it has not yet been funded.

Recommendation: Support

Status: unchanged

HB1254 Education - Closing the Gap School Recognition Awards

This bill would establish the “Closing the Gap School Recognition Awards” program in order to recognize primary and secondary schools that have made significant efforts in reducing achievement gaps for specified student racial and ethnic groups and subgroups as demonstrated by data reported to the State Department of Education in accordance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act. It would require the Governor to include \$2,750,000, entirely from federal funds, in the annual State budget to fund the awards program.

Recommendation: Support

Status: to be heard 3/22

HB1325 Creation of State Debt - Aging School Program - Qualified Zone Academy Bonds

This bill proposed the creation of a State Debt in the amount of \$9,361,000 to be used as a grant to the Interagency Committee on School Construction for specified development or improvement purposes to be allocated to eligible school systems. It would be subject to a requirement that the grantee document the provision of a required federal matching fund.

Recommendation: Support

Status: to be heard 3/18

SB 266 - Quality Teacher Incentive Act - Increasing Participation

Like HB 330, passage of this bill would help advance and promote the teaching profession by increasing the maximum number of teachers selected each year to participate in the State and Local Aid Program for Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards from 500 to 750.

Board of Education position: Support

*Status: passed the Senate

SB 268 - Education - School Based Employees – Stipends

This bill provides for a stipend of up to a maximum of \$2,000 for certificated school-based employees who work directly with students or teachers and who hold a certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. As with HB 330 and SB 266 it would help support the professional career ladder for teachers.

Board of Education position: Support

*Status: passed the Senate

LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION:

SB 834 - Pilot Program to Study and Improve Screening Practices for Autism Spectrum Disorders (Cross file of 579)

This bill would establish a Pilot Program to Study and Improve Screening Practices for Autism Spectrum Disorders in the Department of Education and would require the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to establish relationships with specified providers to participate in the Pilot Program. It also provides that training materials be developed and that written information on early detection of autism spectrum disorders be distributed.

Board of Education position: Support

SB 939 - Education - State Aid for Public Elementary and Secondary Education - Trigger Provision – Repeal (Cross file of 560)

This bill would repeal the provision of law that makes annual per pupil foundation aid for education contingent on the adoption of a joint resolution by the General Assembly if State aid for public elementary and secondary education exceeds a specified threshold

and repeals the provision that limits the annual per pupil foundation aid to a specified amount if the joint resolution is not adopted.

Board of Education position: Support