



Maryland Education Coalition



INSPIRES ACTION & POSITIVE CHANGE SO MARYLAND'S STUDENTS SUCCEED

Rick Tyler, Jr., Chair

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March 9, 2021

BILL: [SB0915](#) -The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

- Performance Standards - Clarifications

POSITION: Strongly Support

COMMITTEE: [Education, Health, and](#)

[Environmental Affairs Committee](#)

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) is made up of 20 organizations and several individuals who represent parents, civil rights, & special student population groups for over 40 years. We believe a public education is a constitutional right allowing all students equitable access to a quality well-rounded public education so each may graduate college or career-ready. We also believe it is a civil right.

MEC advocates for adequate, equitable policies and funding and systematic accountability and with its partners strongly supports the approval of SB 915-The Blueprint for Maryland's Future-Performance Standards-Clarifications as a technical amendment to HB1300-Blueprint for Maryland's Future to clarify the use of the term "performance standards" by ensuring that the foundation of a world-class education system in Maryland under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future for education will require that is sufficient to enable students to achieve the State's performance standards, as required in [Maryland COMAR Regulations, Title 13A State Board of Education](#).

MEC believes that the approval of this technical amendment will more clearly define performance standards, tied to systematic accountability throughout state and local government not just within state and local boards of education and their administrations, but through the General Assembly [Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review \(AELR\)](#) and the recently created Accountability and Implementation Board.

MEC also believes this technical change is consistent with Maryland's [ESSA Plan approved by the USDE](#) to ensure all students within all student subgroups have access to a well-rounded curriculum in all grades. MEC believes that this technical amendment is consistent with a charge and intent of the Kirwan Commission¹:

- determining how the federal Every Student Succeeds Act will affect primary and secondary education in the State, and
- determining how the State can better prepare students for postsecondary education and to be competitive in the workforce and with other high performing countries in the global economy.

MEC has at least a dozen representatives including some with national distinction with experience and expertise throughout the Maryland, local and national public school systems as major stakeholders and as part of the decision-making process in the proposal, development, and approval of COMAR regulations. This includes former state or local senior administrators, educators for a variety of subjects, student service or program support professionals, as well as lawyers, civil rights advocates, etc. They have served as advisors, researchers, and analysts in the proposal, drafting and approval of several significant COMAR Regulations based on evidence of what works at the state, national and international level including Gifted & Talented Programs, Fine Arts and Graduation Requirements, etc.

Therefore, we urge support of SB 915, to help ensure all students have access to a quality, well-rounded education.

Respectfully yours

Rick Tyler, Jr., Chair *(See attached for a complete list of signatures)*

See attached for a complete list and links to Title 13A, State Board of Education regulations and what they say

¹ [Charge of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education](#)

MEC Organization Members

- Advocates for Children and Youth*
- American Civil Liberties Union of MD*
- Arts Education in Maryland Schools
- Arts Every Day
- Attendance Works*
- CASA*
- Decoding Dyslexia of MD
- Disability Rights Maryland
- League of Women Voters of MD
- Let Them See Clearly
- Right to Read Maryland
- Maryland PTA
- Maryland Coalition for Community Schools
- Maryland Coalition for Gifted & Talented Education
- Maryland Out of School Time Network
- Maryland State Conference - NAACP*
- Maryland School Psychologists' Association
- Parent Advocacy Consortium
- Public Justice Center
- School Social Workers of MD
- Strong Schools Maryland*

MEC Individual Members

- Rick Tyler, Jr., Chair
- Barbara Dezmon
- Kalman Hettleman
- David Hornbeck
- Sharon Rubinstein

Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education*

- The Black and Brown Coalition For Educational Equity and Excellence
- Baltimore Corps
- Caucus of African American Leaders
- Ed Trust
- Family League
- Uplift

*Members of Maryland Education Coalition and the Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education

(COMAR) [Title 13A, State Board of Education](#) (click on links below for details)

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(COMAR) [Title 13A, State Board of Education](#) (*Links to detailed subtitles and chapters*)

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- [13A.02.06 General Financial Aid to Local School Systems](#)
- [13A.02.07 Annual Audits of Financial Statements and Federal Awards](#)
- [13A.02.08 Recognition of Employee Organizations - Repealed](#)
- [13A.02.09 Closing of Schools](#)

Subtitle 03 GENERAL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

- [13A.03.01 Standards for Kindergarten Programs](#)
- [13A.03.02 Graduation Requirements for Public High Schools in Maryland](#)
- [13A.03.03 Alternate Ways to Earn a High School Diploma - Repealed - See \[09.37.01\]\(#\)](#)
- [13A.03.04 Test Administration and Data-Reporting Policies and Procedures](#)
- [13A.03.05 Administration of Home and Hospital Teaching for Students](#)
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- [13A.04.02 Secondary School Career and Technology Education](#)
- [13A.04.03 Driver Education Programs - Repealed](#)
- [13A.04.04 Religious Education](#)
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- [13A.04.07 Gifted and Talented Education](#)
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- [13A.04.15 Digital Learning](#)
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- [13A.04.17 Environmental Education](#)
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Subtitle 05 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

- [13A.05.01 Provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education](#)

- [13A.05.02 Administration of Services for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [13A.05.03 Programs of Adult Education - Repealed](#)
- [13A.05.04 Programs for Library Media Services - Transferred to \[14.38.01\]\(#\)](#)
- [13A.05.05 Programs of Pupil Services](#)
- [13A.05.06 Programs for Migrant Education](#)
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- 13A.09.02 Academic Schools - Repealed
- 13A.09.03 Standards for Nonpublic Nursery Schools and Kindergartens - Repealed
- 13A.09.04 Standards for Nonpublic Elementary Schools - Repealed
- 13A.09.05 Standards for Nonpublic Secondary Schools - Repealed
- 13A.09.06 Nonpublic Tutoring Schools - Repealed
- 13A.09.07 Standards for Nonpublic Schools for the Handicapped - Repealed
- 13A.09.08 Nursery School Programs and Kindergarten Programs Operating Within a Nonpublic Group Day Care Center - Repealed
- 13A.09.09 Educational Programs in Nonpublic Schools
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Subtitle 10 HOME INSTRUCTION

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Subtitle 11 PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

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- 13A.11.02 Maryland Disability Employment Tax Credit
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- 13A.11.04 Business Enterprise Program for the Blind
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- 13A.11.06 Records of Services
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- 13A.14.01 Family Day Care - Repealed, See 13A.15
- 13A.14.02 Child Care Center Licensing - Repealed See 13A.16
- 13A.14.03 Administrative Hearings—Family Day Care Homes - Transferred to 13A.15.14
- 13A.14.04 Administrative Hearings—Child Care Centers - Transferred to 13A.16.18 and 13A.17.16
- 13A.14.05 Letters of Compliance - Repealed, See 13A.17
- 13A.14.06 Child Care Subsidy Program
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