



Maryland Education Coalition

INSPIRES ACTION & POSITIVE CHANGE SO MARYLAND'S STUDENTS SUCCEED

Rick Tyler, Jr., Chair

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Date: February 12, 2021

OPPOSE w/conditions.

BILL: [HB0820](#)

TITLE: County Boards of Education - Computer Science Courses - Reporting Requirements

COMMITTEE: Ways and Mean

BILL: [HB0823](#)

TITLE: Public Schools - Mathematics Credit - College Preparatory Computer Science or Computer Programming Course

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) is very concern with the introduction of HB820 and HB 823 scheduled to be heard by the Ways and Means Committee, Friday, February 12, 2021, because it appears that their contents related to Computer Science and Graduation requirements was just part of the [MSDE State Board Meeting Agenda January 26, 2021](#).* as part of their authorities. In addition, some of the contents in these bills already exist within the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) [Title 13A State Board of Education](#)** . In addition, there are existing regulations under Technology Education that require a board range of academic programs including computer science for all grades including elementary schools students. So elementary schools even offer coding.

Therefore, we urge the bill sponsor with the Ways and Means committee to at minimum table these bills until there is a review and understanding of current related actions by the state board with MSDE assistance.

Please note that COMAR REGULATIONS 13A.03.02, 13A.04.01 and 13A.04.09 are part of the [MSDE Graduation Task Force](#) recommendations to the MSDE senior administration, who in turn submitted them to the Maryland State Board of Education for their final deliberations and decision. They are also posted in the [Maryland Register](#) and is required to come in front of the General Assembly [Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review \(AELR\)](#). AELR also has a [Regulation Review Process](#).

MEC has advocated for adequate, equitable funding and policies as well as systematic accountability of Maryland's public schools for over 40-years. We believe a public education is a constitutional* and civil right allowing all students equitable access to a quality education so each may graduate college or career-ready. To date, the federal, state, and local governments combined have inadequately and inequitable funding most public school systems, especially those with lower wealth* with the highest number of lower income and students of color.

Therefore, although we support the intent of these bills, we do not support the bills and believe the General Assembly should allow the Maryland State Board to proceed with implementing the related regulations instead.

Respectfully yours,

Rick Tyler, Jr. Chair

Also a former member of the MSDE Graduation Task Force

*See attached.

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 Ed, MSC-NAACP Maryland Out of School Time Network, , Maryland School Psychologists' Association, Parent Advocacy Consortium, Public Justice Center, School Social Workers of MD, Barbara Dezmon, Kalam Hettleman, David Hornbeck, Rick Tyler, Jr., Shamoyia Gardiner, Sharon Rubinstein

MSDE State Board Meeting Agenda January 26, 2021.

- [COMAR 13A.03.02 Graduation Requirements for Public High Schools in Maryland](#)
- [COMAR 13A.04.01 Requirements for Computer Science, Engineering, or Technology Education Instructional Programs](#)
- [COMAR 13A.04.09 Program in Science](#)

13a.04.01.01.htm - 01 Requirements for Technology Education Instructional Programs..

A. Each local school system shall offer a technology education program in grades 9—12 which shall enable students to:

- 1) Meet graduation requirements; and
- 2) Select advanced technology education electives.

B. Maryland Technology Education Program. The comprehensive instructional program shall:

- 1) Provide for the diversity of student needs, abilities, and interests in the high school learning years; and

13A.03.02 [Graduation Requirements for Public High Schools in Maryland](#),

[13a.03.02.03.htm](#) (8) Technology education — one credit that includes the application of knowledge, tools, and skills to solve practical problems and extend human capabilities, and

(9) One of the following:

- (a) Two credits of world language, which may include American Sign Language,
- (b) Two credits of advanced technology education; or
- (c) Successfully complete a State-approved career and technology program.

Other Amendments to the Regulations (page 8)

COMAR 13A. 04.01 Programs in Computer Science, Engineering, or Technology Education • Reflects revisions to the comprehensive instruction program to include Computer Science and Engineering

MSDE Preapproved Courses for Technology Education Graduation Credit (page 6)

Engineering Design-Based Courses

- ITEEA's Foundations of Technology
- Project Lead the Way Principles of Engineering*
- Project Lead the Way Introduction to Engineering Design*

Computer Science-Based Courses

- Exploring Computer Science
- Foundations of Computer Science*
- Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles