

House Bill 1415 of 2018
Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education

The bill extends the Commission's deadline for a final report by one year, to December 31, 2018, and establishes initiatives to implement several of the Commission's preliminary recommendations.

Encourage and help the best high school students to become teachers

- Creates an outreach program and digital recruitment platform to encourage the top 25% of high school students from each county and other individuals to consider becoming a teacher; improve the public perception of the teaching profession; and increase awareness of available financial aid programs for teaching candidates, opportunity gaps between students in schools, and racial disparities between students and teaching population. Creates steering committee that MSDE must consult with before implementing the program (*\$250K annually*)
- Mandates funding for the Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship, which was created by Chapter 542 of 2014 but has never been funded. Also alters eligibility to require (1) GPA, GRE, SAT, or ACT and (2) dedication for teaching; alters the service obligation for recipients and includes individuals who change majors or change careers to pursue a teaching certificate; and alters repayment for extenuating circumstances (*\$2M/100 awards annually*)

Provide more resources for schools serving concentrations of students living in poverty

- Early Literacy Initiative program to assist Title 1 public schools to implement evidence-based literacy programs to provide interventions and twice weekly services to students struggling with reading (*\$2.5M for each of fiscal 2019 through 2022 for 50 grants*)
- Learning in Extended Academic Program (LEAP) Grant program to assist public schools with at least 80% of students eligible for free or reduced price meal (FRPM) to provide before school, after school, weekend, or summer academic programs that have a positive measurable impact on or enriches academic performance and well-being of students at risk of falling behind in school (*\$4.5M annually in grants; funding for the Public School Opportunities Enhancement Program is reduced by \$4.5M*)

Promote high quality, innovative Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- CTE Innovation grants for local boards or community colleges to form a partnership between a local board, community college, and industry partner to develop and implement an innovative CTE curriculum framework and pathway between secondary and postsecondary education or training that includes U.S. and international best practices (*\$2M annually*)

Support early childhood education

- Requires the State to maintain its commitment to expanding prekindergarten for low-income 4-year-olds by mandating that funding continue at least at the fiscal 2019 level (*\$15 million annually to backfill federal funds and \$8 million in State matching funds in fiscal 2020 and beyond*)

Study the cost of adequacy for special education

- MSDE must contract with independent consultant to study current costs of special education both in the U.S. and internationally and recommend an appropriate formula weight for providing adequate education to students in special education (*estimated cost of \$350K*)

Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education Fund

- Establishes special fund to assist in providing adequate funding for early childhood education and primary and secondary education based on final recommendations of the Commission and directs \$200 million of State income tax revenues in fiscal 2019 to the fund