



Renee Spence, Executive Director
9 Trotters Ridge Court, Catonsville, MD. 21228
410-925-2183
pssamed@gmail.com

BILL: House Bill 1040
TITLE: Education – Student Report Cards – Required Information
DATE: March 11, 2016
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM
Email: pssamed@gmail.com; Cell: 410-925-2183

House Bill 1040 requires each local school system, beginning in the 2016-1017 school year, to include on specified information on student report cards; requires specified information to be presented in a specified manner; requires the State Department of Education to develop a specified system of grading public schools in the State based on specified performance levels of a specified State assessment; and requires the Department to make a specified notification before the start of a specified school year.

Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, House Bill 1040 requires each local school system to include specific information on student report cards. This bill also requires that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) would be required to grade each public school based on the school's performance on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments, using the PARCC performance levels. PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 1040 for the following reasons.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 (the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act), requires the development of a new state accountability system for the 2017-2018 school year. ESSA requires multiple indicators, including academic achievement. Other indicators include graduation rate (for high schools), and an indicator of school quality and student success such as student engagement, educator engagement, student access to advanced coursework, postsecondary readiness, school climate and safety, or other measures.

MSDE anticipates that it will be required to submit its new accountability system to the U.S. Department of Education around March or April 2017. MSDE has created an ESSA Stakeholder Committee. They will be meeting for the first time in March 2016 and are expected to develop draft accountability goals by approximately August 2016. These draft accountability goals will not be finalized until the final regulations are promulgated by the U.S. Department of Education in November 2016, and the accountability goals are approved by the State Board of Education.

PSSAM believes that House Bill 1040 is ill-timed. A better course of action would be to allow the current ESSA Stakeholder Committee to complete their charge to develop draft accountability goals; finalize these goals after November 2016, and present the goals to the State Board for final input and approval.

The new state accountability system would necessitate a new state and local school system report card. It is not fiscally prudent at this point to spend time and money redesigning current school reports that would only be relevant for a brief period.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **OPPOSES** House Bill 1040 and requests an unfavorable committee report.

