



Renee Spence, Executive Director  
9 Trotters Ridge Court, Catonsville, MD. 21228  
410-925-2183  
[pssamed@gmail.com](mailto:pssamed@gmail.com)

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BILL: Senate Bill 458  
TITLE: Education – Foreign Language Requirement – Computer Programming Language Courses  
DATE: February 15, 2017  
POSITION: OPPOSE  
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs  
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM  
Email: [pssamed@gmail.com](mailto:pssamed@gmail.com); Cell: 410-925-2183

Senate Bill 458 allows county boards of education to authorize a student to satisfy a State or county middle or high school foreign language requirement by completing a course in computer programming language.

PSSAM strongly **opposes Senate Bill 458**. Local superintendents firmly believe in the value of a credit in foreign language as a graduation requirement.

Now more than ever it is important for our students to have a credit in foreign language to graduate from a Maryland high school. Maryland students need to be prepared to participate in the world community both inside and outside our borders. Local superintendents are committed to preparing world class students that must be able to communicate in other languages at higher levels of proficiency and with greater cultural competency.

That being said, PSSAM again reiterates that we will continue to oppose action that attempts to legislate curriculum, courses of study, or graduation requirements. We firmly believe that this role belongs to local boards of education working together with the State Board of Education.

For the reasons noted above, PSSAM **OPPOSES** Senate Bill 458 and requests an **unfavorable** committee report.