

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1059 (Delegate Valderrama, *et al.*)
 Ways and Means

Education - Asian American History - Professional Development and Library Materials

This bill establishes the Asian American History Grant Program, administered by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), to expand access to professional development in Asian American history and to fund school library purchases of Asian American and Pacific Islander history materials. A teacher may apply for a grant of up to \$2,000 to cover costs related to earning professional development points (PDPs) through an approved program, and a school library may apply for up to \$1,000 per year to purchase age-appropriate materials. Beginning in fiscal 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor must include \$500,000 in the annual budget bill for the program. The bill also requires the MSDE Division of Educator Effectiveness to evaluate specified Asian American history training programs for inclusion in MSDE’s continuing professional development program, through which educators earn professional development points, and to publicize approved programs. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$82,500 in FY 2027 for staff to establish the grant program and assess professional development programs; administrative costs are assumed to be absorbable beginning in FY 2028. Beginning in FY 2028, general fund expenditures increase by \$500,000 annually for the grant program. Revenues are not affected. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2028.**

(in dollars)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	82,500	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Net Effect	(\$82,500)	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Local school system revenues increase to the extent school libraries receive grants under the program; expenditures increase correspondingly. The magnitude varies by level of participation. No required local match.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: With the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, the State Board of Education (SBE) establishes basic policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for public schools. Subject to State law and the regulations, bylaws, policies, and guidelines established by SBE, each local board of education must establish the curriculum guides and courses of study for schools in its jurisdiction. Policies, rules, and regulations for the graduation of students from Maryland public schools are established by local boards of education and SBE.

Teacher Licensure-Professional Development Points

The SBE and the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board develop rules and regulations for the certification (licensure) of teachers and other professional personnel and requirements for preparation of teachers and other education personnel. According to regulations, PDPs are units used by educators in Maryland to renew their professional licenses. PDPs are earned through the completion of specific, professionally aligned tasks and assignments. To renew an initial professional, professional, or advanced professional license for a successive five-year term, educators must successfully complete a minimum of 90 PDPs every five years.

Antibias Guidelines

Chapter 128 of 2024 requires local school systems to provide antibias training to certain school employees based on guidelines developed by MSDE.

MSDE is required to develop guidelines for an antibias training program for school employees. The guidelines developed must include specified elements, including (1) raising awareness of biases, prejudices, intolerances, and discrimination faced by African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Hispanic Americans, and other historically marginalized racial and ethnic minorities and (2) combating prejudices faced by historically marginalized religious minorities, including antisemitism and Islamophobia. In developing the guidelines, MSDE must incorporate lessons learned from real-life incidents of discriminatory bullying, harassment, or

intimidation reported in accordance with the bullying, harassment, or intimidation policies required by law. MSDE periodically must update the guidelines.

Public School Antibias Training

Each local board of education must, in consultation with teachers and other public school employees, develop an antibias training based on the guidelines developed by MSDE. Every other year, each local board of education must train each public school employee whose job duties include frequent interactions with students using its antibias training. Antibias training must be job-embedded, paid professional development training that is provided during nonteaching time. To the extent practicable, the training must (1) be offered in a peer-to-peer setting; (2) take a half day or less to complete; and (3) incorporate lessons learned from incidents of bullying, harassment, or intimidation in the county, as reported.

State Expenditures: MSDE advises that implementation requires one permanent full-time position to administer the grant program and oversee evaluation and publicity of professional development programs. However, the bill does not specify program design or ongoing regulatory oversight beyond administration of a \$500,000 annual grant program beginning in fiscal 2028. Accordingly, this analysis assumes implementation requires one full-time contractual position in fiscal 2027 to evaluate identified programs and establish the grant program framework.

General fund expenditures increase by \$82,473 in fiscal 2027, reflecting a 90-day start-up delay from the bill’s July 1, 2026 effective date. This estimate includes a salary, fringe benefits, and operating expenses. Beginning in fiscal 2028, the bill requires an annual appropriation of \$500,000 for the grant program. At maximum award levels specified in the bill, this funding would support up to 250 teacher grants (\$2,000 each) or up to 500 school library grants (\$1,000 each), or some combination thereof. The bill does not specify an allocation between grant categories. Accordingly, the number of awards processed annually may range from approximately 250 to 500 depending on program design. For purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that awards are distributed through a streamlined process (*e.g.*, first-come, first-served or lottery-based) that limits administrative burden. Thus, ongoing grant administration at this scale is assumed to be handled within existing MSDE grant management resources.

Contractual Position	1.0
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$73,332
Operating Expenses	<u>9,141</u>
Total FY 2027 MSDE Expenditures	\$82,473

The estimate assumes termination of the contractual position on July 1, 2027, after the specified training programs have been evaluated for inclusion in MSDE's continuing professional development program and the grant application process has been established. To the extent that ongoing administration cannot be absorbed within existing resources, general fund expenditures increase accordingly.

This estimate does not include any health insurance costs that could be incurred for specified contractual employees under the State's implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 1323 of 2025; HB 1363 of 2024 and HB 960 of 2024.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Budget and Management; Baltimore City Public Schools; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Frederick County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Wicomico County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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