

# SENATE BILL 681

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By: **Senator Beidle**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Virtual Schools – Access to Extracurricular Activities and Athletics**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring virtual schools to provide to students access to  
4 extracurricular activities and athletics at the public school the student would  
5 otherwise be required to attend; and generally relating to virtual schools and  
6 extracurricular activities and athletics.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Education

9 Section 7–1403 and 7–1404

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2022 Replacement Volume)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Education**

15 7–1403.

16 (a) A virtual school shall provide each enrolled student:

17 (1) Access to a sequential curriculum approved by the State Board that  
18 meets or exceeds the standards adopted by the county board in the county of the virtual  
19 school's principal place of business;

20 (2) The same length of time for learning opportunities per academic year  
21 that is required for public school students, unless the virtual school can show that a student  
22 has demonstrated mastery or completion of the subject area; [and]

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) Regular assessment in the core areas of instruction as required by  
2 regulations adopted by the State Board under § 7–1408 of this subtitle; AND

3 (4) ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

4 (I) EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
5 THE STUDENT WOULD OTHERWISE BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND; AND

6 (II) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW OR REGULATION AND  
7 SUBJECT TO A PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL AND  
8 THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF THE STUDENT, PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZED  
9 ATHLETICS AND ON ATHLETIC TEAMS AT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL THE STUDENT WOULD  
10 OTHERWISE BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND.

11 (b) A curriculum adopted under subsection (a) of this section shall have an  
12 interactive program with significant online components.

13 (c) Beginning in the 2022–2023 school year, a virtual school shall follow the  
14 quality online education standards.

15 7–1404.

16 (a) A virtual school shall provide to the parent or guardian of each enrolled  
17 student:

18 (1) Instructional materials, including software; [and]

19 (2) Information on the closest public facility that offers access to a  
20 computer, printer, and Internet connection; AND

21 (3) INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS ON ACCESS TO EXTRACURRICULAR  
22 ACTIVITIES AND PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS AND ON ATHLETIC TEAMS AT THE  
23 PUBLIC SCHOOL THE STUDENT WOULD OTHERWISE BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND.

24 (b) A virtual school may not provide funds for the purchase of instructional  
25 programs or materials to a student or to a student’s parent or guardian.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
27 1, 2023.