

SENATE BILL 917

F1

4r1280
CF 4r1279

By: **Senator Brooks**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Restorative Practices Schools – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the duties of behavioral health services coordinators and the
4 Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports regarding duties
5 related to implementing Restorative Practices Schools throughout the State;
6 requiring the State Department of Education to develop a comprehensive plan to
7 implement requirements for the establishment of Restorative Practices Schools; and
8 generally relating to Restorative Practices Schools.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Education
11 Section 7–447(a)(1) and (2) and (b) and 7–447.1(a)(1) and (b)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

14 BY adding to
15 Article – Education
16 Section 7–447(a)(4) and (5), 7–447.1(a)(8), and 7–452
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20 Article – Education
21 Section 7–447(c) and 7–447.1(c) and (k)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 7-447.

2 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (2) "Behavioral health services" means trauma-informed prevention,
4 intervention, and treatment services for the social-emotional, psychological, and
5 behavioral health of students, including mental health and substance use disorders.

6 (4) (I) **"RESTORATIVE PRACTICES" MEANS EVIDENCE-BASED**
7 **CLASSROOM AND SCHOOLWIDE STRATEGIES DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN**
8 **RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AND BUILD SOCIAL CONNECTIONS WITHIN**
9 **A COMMUNITY TO FOSTER STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY FOR BEHAVIOR.**

10 (II) **"RESTORATIVE PRACTICES" INCLUDE:**

- 11 1. **CONFLICT RESOLUTION;**
- 12 2. **MEDIATION;**
- 13 3. **PEER MEDIATION;**
- 14 4. **CIRCLE PROCESSES;**
- 15 5. **RESTORATIVE CONFERENCES;**
- 16 6. **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING;**
- 17 7. **TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE;**
- 18 8. **POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION SUPPORTS;**
- 19 **AND**
- 20 9. **REHABILITATION.**

21 (5) **"RESTORATIVE PRACTICES SCHOOL" HAS THE MEANING STATED**
22 **IN § 7-452 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

23 (b) Each local school system shall appoint a behavioral health services
24 coordinator.

25 (c) In addition to the requirements under Subtitle 15 of this title, each behavioral
26 health services coordinator shall:

1 (1) Coordinate existing behavioral health services and referral procedures
2 for behavioral health services within the local school system, including through a
3 coordinated community supports partnership;

4 (2) Working in collaboration with the local health department, the local
5 department of social services, and other local entities that provide behavioral health
6 services, including a community supports partnership, ensure that a student who is
7 referred for behavioral health services obtains the necessary services in a timely manner;

8 **(3) COORDINATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES**
9 **PROGRAMS FOR USE IN SCHOOLS AND THE ANNUAL TRAINING FOR SCHOOL**
10 **PERSONNEL IN RESTORATIVE PRACTICES WITHIN THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM,**
11 **INCLUDING THE USE OF TRAINING PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED BY THE MARYLAND**
12 **CONSORTIUM OF COORDINATED COMMUNITY SUPPORTS;**

13 **(4) ASSIST THE RESTORATIVE PRACTICES COACH IN EACH**
14 **RESTORATIVE PRACTICES SCHOOL WITH MONITORING AND IMPROVING THE**
15 **INTEGRATION OF A SCHOOLWIDE RESTORATIVE PRACTICES PROGRAM INTO THE**
16 **DAILY PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SCHOOL;**

17 **[(3)] (5) Maximize external funding for behavioral health,**
18 **RESTORATIVE PRACTICES TRAINING, and wraparound services;**

19 **[(4)] (6) Have at a minimum a master's degree and behavioral health**
20 **training experience in schools;**

21 **[(5)] (7) Provide the required behavioral health training under § 6–122 of**
22 **this article; and**

23 **[(6)] (8) Develop and implement a standardized screening to identify**
24 **students with behavioral health services needs using an evidence–based measurement**
25 **approach.**

26 7–447.1.

27 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

28 **(8) “RESTORATIVE PRACTICES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**
29 **7–447 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

30 (b) (1) There is a Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports
31 in the Commission.

32 (2) The Commission shall provide staff to the Consortium.

1 (3) Four additional staff shall be added to the Commission to staff the
2 Consortium.

3 (c) The purposes of the Consortium are to:

4 (1) Support the development of coordinated community supports
5 partnerships to meet student behavioral health needs and other related challenges in a
6 holistic, nonstigmatized, and coordinated manner;

7 (2) Provide expertise for the development of best practices in the delivery
8 of student behavioral health services, supports, and wraparound services; and

9 (3) Provide technical assistance to local school systems to support positive
10 classroom environments **THROUGH THE USE OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES** and the
11 closing of achievement gaps so that all students can succeed.

12 (k) The Consortium shall:

13 (1) Develop a statewide framework for the creation of coordinated
14 community supports partnerships;

15 (2) Ensure that community supports partnerships are structured in a
16 manner that provides community services and supports in a holistic and nonstigmatized
17 manner that meets behavioral health and other wraparound needs of students and is
18 coordinated with any other youth-serving government agencies interacting with the
19 students;

20 (3) Develop a model for expanding available behavioral health services and
21 supports to all students in each local school system through:

22 (i) The maximization of public funding through the Maryland
23 Medical Assistance Program, including billing for Program administrative costs, or other
24 public sources;

25 (ii) Commercial insurance participation;

26 (iii) The implementation of a sliding scale for services based on family
27 income; and

28 (iv) The participation of nonprofit hospitals through community
29 benefit requirements;

30 (4) Provide guidance and support to the Commission for the purpose of
31 developing and implementing a grant program to award grants to coordinated community
32 supports partnerships with funding necessary to deliver services and supports to meet the
33 holistic behavioral health needs and other related challenges facing the students proposed

1 to be served by the coordinated community supports partnership and that sets reasonable
2 administrative costs for the coordinated community supports partnership;

3 (5) Evaluate how a reimbursement system could be developed through the
4 Maryland Department of Health or a private contractor to reimburse providers
5 participating in a coordinated community supports partnership and providing services and
6 supports to students who are uninsured and for the difference in commercial insurance
7 payments and Maryland Medical Assistance Program fee-for-service payments;

8 (6) In consultation with the Department, develop best practices for the
9 implementation of and related to the creation of a positive classroom environment for all
10 students using evidence-based methods that recognize the disproportionality of classroom
11 management referrals, including by:

12 (i) Creating a list of programs and classroom management practices
13 that are evidence-based best practices to address student behavioral health issues in a
14 classroom environment;

15 (ii) **CREATING A LIST OF TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL**
16 **PERSONNEL TO IMPLEMENT SCHOOLWIDE RESTORATIVE PRACTICES DESIGNED TO**
17 **STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE SCHOOL CLIMATE TO PROMOTE POSITIVE**
18 **STUDENT ACADEMIC OUTCOMES AND CONDUCT;**

19 (iii) **MONITORING AND DISSEMINATING UPDATED RESEARCH**
20 **REGARDING THE MOST EFFECTIVE RESTORATIVE PRACTICES AND BEST PRACTICES**
21 **ON IMPLEMENTATION AND TRAINING;**

22 (iv) Evaluating relevant regulations and making recommendations
23 for any necessary clarifications, as well as developing a plan to provide technical assistance
24 in the implementation of the regulations by local school systems to create a positive
25 classroom environment; and

26 [(iii)] (v) Developing a mechanism to ensure that all local school
27 systems implement relevant regulations in a consistent manner; and

28 (7) Develop a geographically diverse plan that uses both school-based
29 behavioral health services and coordinated community supports partnerships to ensure
30 that each student in each local school system has access to services and supports that meet
31 the student's behavioral health needs and related challenges within a 1-hour drive of a
32 student's residence.

33 **7-452.**

34 (A) (1) **IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
35 **INDICATED.**

1 **(2) “RESTORATIVE PRACTICES” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**
2 **7-447 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

3 **(3) “RESTORATIVE PRACTICES SCHOOL” MEANS A PUBLIC SCHOOL**
4 **THAT INTEGRATES RESTORATIVE PRACTICES INTO DAILY PRACTICES AND**
5 **ACTIVITIES OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL.**

6 **(B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO**
7 **IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RESTORATIVE**
8 **PRACTICES SCHOOLS, CONSIDERING ANY INPUT PROVIDED BY INTERESTED**
9 **STAKEHOLDERS IN THE STATE.**

10 **(2) THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)**
11 **OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:**

12 **(i) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MARYLAND CONSORTIUM ON**
13 **COORDINATED COMMUNITY SUPPORTS, IDENTIFY PERSONS QUALIFIED TO**
14 **PROVIDE INITIAL RESTORATIVE PRACTICES TRAINING TO RESTORATIVE PRACTICES**
15 **COACHES AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL;**

16 **(ii) ESTABLISH TIMELINES FOR THE COMPLETION OF TRAINING**
17 **FOR RESTORATIVE PRACTICES COACHES, LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM BEHAVIORAL**
18 **HEALTH COORDINATORS, AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL:**

19 **1. IN 50 SCHOOLS ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2026; AND**

20 **2. IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE ON OR**
21 **BEFORE JUNE 30, 2036;**

22 **(iii) ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR WHEN A SCHOOL MAY BE**
23 **DESIGNATED A RESTORATIVE PRACTICES SCHOOL;**

24 **(iv) DEVELOP THE INTENDED OUTCOMES AND PERFORMANCE**
25 **METRICS THAT THE USE OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES WILL ACHIEVE, INCLUDING IN**
26 **THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

27 **1. DISCIPLINARY STUDENT CONDUCT, INCLUDING**
28 **STUDENT OFFICE REFERRALS, SUSPENSIONS, EXPULSIONS, AND SCHOOL ARRESTS;**

29 **2. STUDENT ABSENTEEISM AND TRUANCY;**

30 **3. RATES OF TEACHER TURNOVER AND ABSENTEEISM;**

1 4. **RELEVANT MENTAL HEALTH INDICATORS; AND**

2 5. **SCHOOL CLIMATE INDICATORS; AND**

3 (v) **ESTABLISH SCHOOL-LEVEL AND LOCAL SCHOOL**
4 **SYSTEM-LEVEL DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING STANDARDS AND**
5 **REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING REQUIRING THE DISAGGREGATION OF REPORTED**
6 **DATA BY RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER, AND DISABILITY STATUS.**

7 (c) (1) **IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ADOPTED BY**
8 **THE DEPARTMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL**
9 **SHALL APPOINT A RESTORATIVE PRACTICES COACH.**

10 (2) **THE RESTORATIVE PRACTICES COACH SHALL:**

11 (i) **BE A FULL TIME POSITION THAT REPORTS DIRECTLY TO**
12 **THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL;**

13 (ii) **RECEIVE INTENSIVE TRAINING ON EFFECTIVE**
14 **RESTORATIVE PRACTICES AND DEVELOPING AND INTEGRATING RESTORATIVE**
15 **PRACTICES INTO SCHOOLWIDE DAILY PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES;**

16 (iii) **COORDINATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT, BEHAVIORAL**
17 **HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATOR FOR THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM, AND THE**
18 **MARYLAND CONSORTIUM FOR COORDINATED COMMUNITY SUPPORTS ON**
19 **TRAINING FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL, RELATED BEST PRACTICES, AND UPDATED**
20 **RESEARCH REGARDING RESTORATIVE PRACTICES;**

21 (iv) **IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, OVERSEE**
22 **AND MONITOR THE INTEGRATION OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES INTO SCHOOLWIDE**
23 **DAILY PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES;**

24 (v) **LEAD THE ANNUAL RESTORATIVE PRACTICES TRAINING**
25 **FOR ALL SCHOOL PERSONNEL;**

26 (vi) **LEAD AND MODEL RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN THE**
27 **SCHOOL; AND**

28 (vii) **COLLECT SCHOOL-LEVEL DATA AND SUBMIT ANY**
29 **REQUIRED REPORTS ON THE PERFORMANCE METRICS ESTABLISHED IN THE**
30 **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.**

1 **(D) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2026, AND EACH DECEMBER 1**
2 **THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN**
3 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON**
4 **IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2024.