

2. AN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT DOES NOT ISSUE OR PROVIDE CREDITS TOWARD A ~~REGULAR~~ MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION IS TO:

(1) INITIATE A PROCESS BY WHICH THE STATE MAY ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF COLLECTING, MAINTAINING, ANALYZING, AND PUBLICLY REPORTING DATA RELATING TO THE GRADUATION RATES OF STUDENTS IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS AS AN ESSENTIAL STEP IN ADDRESSING GAPS IN EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AMONG A DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATION; AND

(2) EXPLICITLY DELINEATE THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE COUNTY BOARDS IN THIS REGARD.

(C) (1) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, ~~2010~~ 2011, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, A COUNTY BOARD SHALL:

(I) COLLECT, MAINTAIN, AND ANALYZE GRADUATION RATES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, ~~SCHOOL DISTRICTS~~ LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS, AND THE STATE; AND

(II) REPORT THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH TO:

1. THE PUBLIC IN THE AGGREGATE AND DISAGGREGATED BY AMERICAN INDIAN, AFRICAN AMERICAN, HISPANIC, WHITE, ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER, STUDENTS WHO ARE LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT, STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE FREE AND REDUCED PRICED MEALS, AND STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES; AND

2. THE DEPARTMENT.

(2) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, ~~2010~~ 2011, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(I) COMPILE THE INFORMATION RECEIVED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND CALCULATE A GRADUATION RATE FOR THE STATE; AND

(II) POST THE INFORMATION OBTAINED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION FOR EACH COUNTY ON ITS WEBSITE IN THE AGGREGATE AND DISAGGREGATED BY AMERICAN INDIAN, AFRICAN AMERICAN, HISPANIC, WHITE, ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER, STUDENTS WHO ARE LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT, STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE FREE AND REDUCED PRICED MEALS, AND STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES.

(D) (1) THE COUNTY BOARDS AND THE DEPARTMENT MAY DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT ADDITIONAL INDICATORS TO COLLECT, MAINTAIN, ANALYZE, AND PUBLICLY REPORT DATA REGARDING ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETIONS.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENSURE THAT THE INFORMATION COLLECTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IS COMPARABLE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ~~SCHOOL DISTRICTS~~ LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN THE STATE.