

**House Bill No. 261**

AN ACT concerning

**Education – School Performance Recognition Awards**

FOR the purpose of recognizing a public school's progress ~~on meeting or exceeding satisfactory~~ that shows substantial improvement towards meeting standards established by the State Board of Education under the Maryland School Performance Program; providing for distribution of the awards by the State Superintendent; requiring the State Board of Education to establish certain guidelines; establishing certain parameters for use of the funds; requiring certain annual reports; and generally relating to recognition awards and education.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 5-203.3

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

**Article – Education**

5-203.3.

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

(2) "DATA-BASED AREAS" MEANS THOSE AREAS IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE BOARD THROUGH THE MARYLAND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROGRAM FOR WHICH INFORMATION IS TO BE TRACKED FOR EACH SCHOOL, EACH SCHOOL SYSTEM, AND THE STATE.

(3) "MARYLAND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROGRAM" MEANS A PERFORMANCE BASED EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM THAT FOCUSES ON ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

(4) "RECIPIENT SCHOOL" MEANS A PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT RECEIVES A RECOGNITION AWARD UNDER THIS SECTION.

(B) IT IS THE INTENT OF THIS SECTION TO REWARD A ~~SCHOOL'S PROGRESS ON MEETING OR EXCEEDING~~ SCHOOL THAT SHOWS SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT TOWARDS MEETING STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD FOR THE DATA-BASED AREAS OF THE MARYLAND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROGRAM.

(C) (1) TO THE EXTENT THAT FUNDS ARE PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT ANNUALLY SHALL DISTRIBUTE RECOGNITION AWARDS TO:

(†) ~~EACH ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOL THAT MEETS~~