

the intent of the General Assembly concerning certain funding for the operating expenses of the Coordination Office; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to State aid for public education.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Education

Section 5-206

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly recognizes that a large portion of the nearly 1,000,000 students who attend public schools across the State are at risk of not performing at high academic levels; and

WHEREAS, The 1993 Governor's Commission on School Funding found that the single best predictor of school performance is the percentage of students approved for free or reduced price meals; and

WHEREAS, In the last 5 years the number of students receiving free and reduced price meals has increased by over 35 percent while student enrollment has increased by only 12 percent; and

WHEREAS, Other factors contributing to the lower academic achievements of at-risk students include possessing limited English proficiency skills, attending schools that have a large portion of inexperienced teachers, and being from highly mobile families that move several times during a school year; and

WHEREAS, The number of limited-English proficient students has increased during this same period by over 31 percent; and

WHEREAS, The 1997 Task Force on Education Funding Equity, Accountability, and Partnerships examined the educational needs of all public school students in Maryland, particularly the needs of at-risk students, and determined that additional State funding is necessary to fill gaps in programs serving at-risk students; now, therefore,

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

Article - Education

5-206.

(a) THIS SECTION MAY BE CITED AS THE SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY FUNDING FOR EXCELLENCE PROGRAM.

(B) (1) [(i)] In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT ENROLLMENT" HAS THE MEANING PROVIDED IN § 5-202 OF THIS SUBTITLE.