

prekindergarten early intervention; providing certain funding, subject to certain conditions, for certain programs in Prince George's County and certain statewide teacher certification and development initiatives; requiring a certain audit of the Prince George's County public schools; establishing a certain management oversight panel; providing that certain existing funding for Prince George's County schools may be directed to support certain programs; establishing a certain Coordination Office; providing certain funding, subject to certain conditions, for school library programs; mandating certain accountability provisions for receipt of certain funds; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt certain regulations implementing certain plans; requiring certain annual reports to the General Assembly; prohibiting the use of certain State funds provided under this Act to supplant certain funds under certain circumstances; providing certain funding for the Aging School Program; ~~requiring the Prince George's County government to provide certain funding for public school construction; requiring a certain State/local cost sharing for public school construction costs in Prince George's County;~~ stating 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