

# HOUSE BILL 428

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4lr0625  
CF SB 370

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By: **Delegate Stewart**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2024

Assigned to: Appropriations and Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Schools – Rental Assistance for Community School Families**  
3 **Program and Fund – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Rental Assistance for Community School Families  
5 Program to provide rental assistance to eligible student households; requiring ~~the~~  
6 ~~State Department of Education, in consultation with~~ the Department of Housing and  
7 ~~Community Development, in consultation with the State Department of Education,~~  
8 to administer the Program; establishing the Rental Assistance for Community  
9 School Families Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; requiring interest earnings of  
10 the Fund to be credited to the Fund; and generally relating to the Rental Assistance  
11 for Community School Families Program and Fund.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Education  
14 Section 9.9–103 and 9.9–104  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 BY adding to  
18 Article – Education  
19 Section 9.9–104.1  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
2 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)  
3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
4 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
6 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
7 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)189. and 190.  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

10 BY adding to  
11 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
12 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)191.  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 9.9–103.

19 (a) There are community schools in the State.

20 (b) A community school shall:

21 (1) Promote active family and community engagement, including  
22 educational opportunities for adults and family members of students at the school who live  
23 in the neighborhood of the school;

24 (2) Have a community school coordinator, as described under § 9.9–104 of  
25 this title;

26 (3) Promote expanded and enriched learning time and opportunities  
27 provided after school, during weekends, and in the summer that emphasize mastering  
28 21st-century skills through practical learning opportunities and community  
29 problem-solving;

30 (4) Promote collaborative leadership and practices that empower parents,  
31 students, teachers, principals, and community partners to build a culture of professional  
32 learning, collective trust, and shared responsibility using strategies such as site-based  
33 leadership teams and teacher learning communities;

34 (5) Have a parent teacher organization or a school family council; and

1 (6) Have a community school leadership team.

2 (c) (1) There shall be a Director of Community Schools in the Department.

3 (2) The Director of Community Schools in the Department shall coordinate  
4 professional development for community school coordinators at each community school.

5 (3) ~~THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS SHALL ADMINISTER~~  
6 ~~THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL FAMILIES PROGRAM~~  
7 ~~ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9.9-104.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE, IN COORDINATION WITH THE~~  
8 ~~GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN, SHALL SUPPORT THE OUTREACH AND~~  
9 ~~IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN IN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.~~

10 (4) In addition to the funding provided for the Director of Community  
11 Schools position in the Department, the Governor may include in the annual budget bill an  
12 appropriation of at least \$100,000 to the Department for the Director of Community Schools  
13 to provide training and technical assistance to community schools and for additional staff.

14 9.9-104.

15 (a) (1) A community school shall have an experienced and qualified  
16 community school coordinator who:

17 (i) Is hired at the appropriate administrative level;

18 (ii) Understands, respects, and demonstrates a high degree of  
19 cultural awareness of and competency in the diversity in the community and in  
20 cross-cultural practice with stakeholders; and

21 (iii) May be employed by the school district.

22 (2) A community school coordinator may be a social worker.

23 (b) (1) A community school coordinator shall be responsible for:

24 (i) Establishing a community school;

25 (ii) Completing an assessment of the needs of the students in the  
26 school for appropriate wraparound services to enhance the success of all students in the  
27 school;

28 (iii) Developing an implementation plan based on the assessment of  
29 needs for the community school, in cooperation with other interested stakeholders; ~~and~~

30 (iv) ~~IDENTIFYING STUDENT HOUSEHOLDS ELIGIBLE FOR THE~~  
31 ~~RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL FAMILIES PROGRAM~~

1 ~~ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9.9-104.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND AIDING IN THE~~  
 2 ~~ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM AT THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL; AND~~

3 ~~{(iv)}~~ **(v)** Coordinating support programs that address  
 4 out-of-school learning barriers for students and families, including:

5 1. Wraparound services; and

6 2. As appropriate:

7 A. Tutoring;

8 B. English language learner courses;

9 C. Early childhood development and parenting classes;

10 D. College and career advising;

11 E. Employment opportunities;

12 F. Citizenship education;

13 G. Food pantries; [and]

14 **H. RENTAL ASSISTANCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**  
 15 **9.9-104.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

16 **[H.] I.** School-based behavioral and physical health  
 17 services.

18 (2) The needs assessment completed under this subsection shall:

19 (i) Be completed in collaboration with:

20 1. The principal;

21 2. A school health care practitioner; and

22 3. A parent teacher organization or a school council;

23 (ii) Include an assessment of the physical, behavioral, and mental  
 24 health needs and wraparound service needs of students, their families, and their  
 25 communities; and

1 (iii) Be submitted to the Department and the local school system  
2 within 1 year of receiving a personnel grant under § 5–223 of this article or within 1 year  
3 of becoming a community school.

4 (3) The implementation plan completed under this subsection shall  
5 include:

6 (i) A strategy for providing wraparound services to address the  
7 needs of the students, their families, and their communities, building on and strengthening  
8 community resources near the school;

9 (ii) Inclusion, if possible and practicable, of community partners in  
10 geographic proximity to the school that can assist in meeting the needs identified in the  
11 assessment;

12 (iii) Ensure that time is made available to train staff on the supports  
13 available, the need for the supports, and how to engage with the community schools  
14 coordinator to access these supports; and

15 (iv) Develop strategies to maximize external non–State or non–local  
16 education funding.

17 (4) (i) The implementation plan shall be submitted to the local school  
18 system for approval within 1 year of completion of the needs assessment.

19 (ii) After the implementation plan is approved by the local school  
20 system it shall be submitted to the Department.

21 **9.9–104.1.**

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

24 (2) “FUND” MEANS THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY  
25 SCHOOL FAMILIES FUND.

26 (3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY  
27 SCHOOL FAMILIES PROGRAM.

28 (B) THERE IS A RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL FAMILIES  
29 PROGRAM.

30 (C) (1) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE RENTAL  
31 ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE STUDENT HOUSEHOLDS AT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.

1           (2) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE ~~DEPARTMENT,~~  
 2 ~~IN CONSULTATION WITH THE~~ DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
 3 ~~DEVELOPMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT.~~

4           (D) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM, A  
 5 COMMUNITY SCHOOL STUDENT MUST BE:

6           (1) ENROLLED IN A COMMUNITY SCHOOL THAT RECEIVES FUNDING  
 7 UNDER § 5-223 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND

8           ~~(2) COUNTED UNDER COMPENSATORY EDUCATION ENROLLMENT AS~~  
 9 ~~DEFINED UNDER § 5-222 OF THIS ARTICLE;~~

10           ~~(3)~~ (2) FROM A HOUSEHOLD ~~THAT:~~

11           (I) THAT IS HOUSED IN A RENTAL PROPERTY, WHERE AT LEAST  
 12 ONE HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS OR HOUSING INSTABILITY,  
 13 AS EVIDENCED BY PAST DUE RENT OR UTILITY NOTICES, UNSAFE LIVING  
 14 CONDITIONS, OR OTHER EVIDENCE DETERMINED BY THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
 15 COORDINATOR; ~~AND~~ OR

16           (II) WHERE AT LEAST ONE MEMBER QUALIFIES FOR  
 17 ASSISTANCE UNDER THE FEDERAL MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE  
 18 ACT.

19           ~~(4) FROM A HOUSEHOLD WHERE AT LEAST ONE MEMBER IS~~  
 20 ~~EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP, AS EVIDENCED BY RECEIPT OF~~  
 21 ~~UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OR OTHER EVIDENCE DETERMINED BY THE COMMUNITY~~  
 22 ~~SCHOOLS COORDINATOR.~~

23           (E) (1) ~~THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE RENTAL AND UTILITY PAYMENTS~~  
 24 ~~ON BEHALF OF ELIGIBLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL STUDENT HOUSEHOLDS DIRECTLY~~  
 25 ~~TO A HOUSEHOLD'S LANDLORD OR UTILITY COMPANY TO ASSIST WITH~~ ELIGIBLE  
 26 USES FOR PAYMENTS UNDER THE PROGRAM INCLUDE:

27           (I) RENTAL PAYMENTS;

28           (II) RENTAL ARREARS;

29           (III) FINES OR FEES ASSOCIATED WITH RENTAL PAYMENTS,  
 30 INCLUDING A LATE FINE OR FEE;

31           (IV) UTILITY PAYMENTS;

1 (V) UTILITY ARREARS; ~~OR~~

2 (VI) FINES OR FEES ASSOCIATED WITH UTILITY PAYMENTS,  
3 INCLUDING A LATE FINE OR FEE; OR

4 (VII) RELOCATION EXPENSES.

5 (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION,  
6 AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT'S HOUSEHOLD MAY RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE PROGRAM  
7 FOR UP TO 12 MONTHS.

8 (3) SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING, AN ELIGIBLE  
9 STUDENT'S HOUSEHOLD MAY RECEIVE ONE 3-MONTH EXTENSION OF SUPPORT IF  
10 THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL STUDENT REMAINS ELIGIBLE UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF  
11 THIS SECTION FOLLOWING 12 MONTHS OF SUPPORT.

12 (F) THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COORDINATOR, A LOCAL SCHOOL, OR A  
13 LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL IDENTIFY ELIGIBLE STUDENT HOUSEHOLDS AND  
14 FACILITATE DIRECT PAYMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS  
15 SECTION.

16 (G) (1) THERE IS A RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
17 FAMILIES FUND.

18 (2) THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
19 DEVELOPMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

20 (3) (I) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT  
21 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

22 (II) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND  
23 SEPARATELY, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

24 (4) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

25 (I) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE  
26 FUND;

27 (II) INTEREST EARNINGS; AND

28 (III) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED  
29 FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

30 (5) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY TO:

1 (I) PROVIDE RENTAL ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
2 PROGRAM; AND

3 (II) COVER THE COSTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND  
4 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO ADMINISTER THE FUND.

5 ~~(6) IN DETERMINING WHICH ELIGIBLE STUDENT HOUSEHOLDS TO~~  
6 ~~SUPPORT UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL GIVE PREFERENCE TO~~  
7 ~~ELIGIBLE STUDENT HOUSEHOLDS FROM COMMUNITY SCHOOLS WITH THE LOWEST~~  
8 ~~PROPORTION OF ELIGIBLE STUDENT HOUSEHOLDS.~~

9 ~~(7) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, THE~~ THE GOVERNOR SHALL MAY  
10 INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF ~~\$10,000,000~~ FOR  
11 THE FUND.

## 12 Article – State Finance and Procurement

13 6–226.

14 (a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless  
15 inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the  
16 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the  
17 State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to  
18 receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General  
19 Fund of the State.

20 (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply  
21 to the following funds:

22 189. the Teacher Retention and Development Fund; [and]

23 190. the Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant Fund; AND

24 191. THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
25 FAMILIES FUND.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
27 1, 2024.