



Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director

9 Trotters Ridge Court, Catonsville, MD 21228

410-925-2183

pssamed@gmail.com

www.pssam.org

BILL: House Bill 350
TITLE: Achieving Computer Science Collaborations for Employing Students Statewide
(ACCESS) Act of 2018
DATE: February 15, 2018
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM
Email: pssamed@gmail.com; Cell: 410-925-2183

House Bill 350 requires the State Board of Education to develop and adopt content standards for computer science education in kindergarten through grade 12 by November 30, 2018; requiring the State Board to consult with certain persons in developing certain standards; requiring the State Department of Education to develop a certain implementation plan; requiring high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools to offer certain computer science courses, education, or curricula beginning in the certain school years; etc.

PSSAM **supports** House Bill 350.

Local superintendents fully recognize the critical importance of providing computer science courses to our students. Maryland is a national leader in the technology-driven economy. Our students must have opportunities to acquire in-demand skills, including computer science courses, to meet the needs of local employers and compete in the global market. Statistics indicate that more than 65% of students will work in jobs that don't even exist today. We understand that it is essential that every student has access to and participate in computer science learning experiences to meet the demands of the current and future workplace and that the focus on computer science must begin in elementary schools.

House Bill 350 will help local school systems place a much needed focus on computer science. We support the legislative requirement for the State Board of Education to develop and adopt content standards for computer science beginning in kindergarten. We look forward to working with the Maryland State Department of Education on the development of an implementation plan. We also appreciate the focus on reaching underserved student populations as well as guidelines for curricula, instructional materials, and equipment necessary for computer science education.

We also support the establishment of the Maryland Center for Computer Education Advisory Board. As local superintendents, we would like to request that a member of PSSAM be appointed to this very important Board. We believe our representative would have valuable knowledge and input that would assist members with their work and deliberations.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **supports** House Bill 350 and urges a favorable committee report.