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BILL: Senate Bill 664  
TITLE: Education – Foreign Language Requirement – Computer Programming Language Courses  
DATE: February 28, 2018  
POSITION: OPPOSE  
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs  
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Senate Bill 664 allows county boards of education to authorize certain students to satisfy a State or County middle or high school foreign language requirement by completing a course in computer programming language; and requiring the State Board of Education to adopt certain regulations.

PSSAM strongly **opposes** Senate Bill 664. Local superintendents firmly believe in the value of a credit in foreign language as a graduation requirement.

Local superintendents fully recognize the importance of Computer Programming and we appreciate recent changes from the Maryland State Department of Education that allow students to take a Computer Science class instead of Foundations of Technology as a graduation credit. However, now more than ever, we believe that it is important for our students to have a credit in foreign language to graduate from a Maryland high school. Maryland students need to be prepared to participate in the world community both inside and outside our borders. Local superintendents are committed to preparing world class students that must be able to communicate in other languages at higher levels of proficiency and with greater cultural competency.

That being said, PSSAM again reiterates that we will continue to oppose action that attempts to legislate curriculum, courses of study, or graduation requirements. We firmly believe that this role belongs to local boards of education working together with the State Board of Education.

For the reasons noted above, PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 664 and requests an unfavorable committee report.