



Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director
9 Trotters Ridge Court, Catonsville, MD 21228
410-925-2183
pssamed@gmail.com
www.pssam.org

BILL: House Bill 1211
TITLE: Education – Foreign Language Requirement – Computer Programming Language Courses
DATE: March 8, 2019
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM
Email: pssamed@gmail.com; Cell: 410-925-2183

House Bill 1211 allows county boards of education to authorize 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** House Bill 1211. 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** House Bill 1211 and requests an unfavorable committee report.