



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

---

BILL: House Bill 985  
TITLE: Public High Schools – Science Credit Requirement – Computer Science and Computer Programming  
DATE: March 8, 2019  
POSITION: OPPOSE  
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means  
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM  
Email: [pssamed@gmail.com](mailto:pssamed@gmail.com); Cell: 410-925-2183

House Bill 985 authorizes a student who is enrolled at a public high school to satisfy a certain requirement to earn credits in science by completing a credit in computer science or computer programming.

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 three credits in science to graduate from a Maryland high school. Science provides students with opportunities to expand, change, enhance and modify the ways in which they view the world. Science teaches students to express various points of view, solve problems and make scientific decisions based on evidence.

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 985 and requests an unfavorable committee report.