



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

BILL: Senate Bill 757
TITLE: Primary and Secondary Assessments – Assessments – Limitation of Administration
(One Day in May Act)
DATE: March 6, 2019
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM
Email: pssamed@gmail.com; Cell: 410-925-2183

Senate Bill 757 alters the method for determining the amount of time devoted to the administration of federal, State, and locally mandated assessments; and limiting the amount of time that is devoted to the administration of these assessments to not more than 1 school day and a school day in May.

PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 757.

Senate Bill 757 limits federal, state, and locally mandated assessments to one day in May. We strongly believe that it is critical that locally governed education policies and procedures remain under the authority of local boards of education. Each local school system must have the flexibility to develop individual assessment policies and practices that reflect the specific and diverse needs of their system.

This legislation sets forth an unrealistic timeline that is impossible to meet. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) represents a comprehensive revision of Maryland's state accountability plan. Maryland's new plan was approved by the U.S. Department of Education in 2018 and includes the academic standards and assessment requirements adopted by the State Board of Education. As such, Maryland will continue to administer mathematics, reading/language arts, and science assessments in grades 3 through 12. With the exception of the federally mandated assessments, student assessments in Maryland are governed largely by regulations adopted by the State Board as well as the policies and practices adopted by 24 local school systems.

PSSAM will continue to advocate for the autonomy of local school systems to administer student assessments, including locally mandated assessments, determined to be in the best interests of the teaching and learning of all students.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 757 and urges an unfavorable committee report.