



Health, Safety and Equity in Education

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Maryland Governor Signs Landmark Bill to Recommend Appropriate School Start Times

Annapolis-- Maryland governor Martin O'Malley will sign H.B. 883 tomorrow, the first piece of legislation to provide guidance to local school districts on appropriate school start times.

The bill, "Study of Safe and Healthy School Hours for Maryland Public Schools," requires Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to conduct a study of morning bell times and make recommendations regarding whether public schools should implement a beginning time of no earlier than 8:00 a.m. The bill was passed by both houses unanimously.

"We were able to win a commitment by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to conduct the study, which will be the first such statewide study in the nation," said Delegate Aruna Miller (D-15), lead sponsor of the bill. "I am proud to have been part of this ongoing effort to determine whether the State of Maryland would benefit from policy changes adopted by individual schools that have switched to later start times."

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Start School Later is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to ensure that all public schools can set start times compatible with health, safety, education, and equity. Please visit our website at: <http://www.startschoollater.net>.