TYCA NORTHEAST
LEGISLATIVE & POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

MORRISTOWN – OCTOBER 2013
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Senate Bill 740 mandated that the Maryland State Board of Education establish high school curriculum and graduation requirements for all public schools as follows:

- All students shall enroll in a college preparation curriculum in high school unless a parent of a student chooses to enroll the student in a non-college preparation curriculum.

- Beginning with the 2014–2015 school year, all students shall be assessed in the 11th grade to determine whether the student is ready for college–level credit–bearing course work.

- MSDE, in collaboration with public community colleges, shall develop and implement, by the 2015–2016 school year, transition courses or other instructional opportunities to be delivered in the 12th grade to students who have not achieved college readiness by the end of the 11th grade.
MARYLAND: LOCAL POLICY

Bring Your Own Device/1:1

• Howard County – students in grades 6-12 will be expected to bring their own device (smart phone/tablet/laptop) to school for instructional purposes. Students who don’t own a device will be allowed to rent one from the school for the year.

• Baltimore County – EVERY student and teacher (K-12) will be given a digital learning device for use at school and home during the school year. The device will allow them to have access to the curriculum and software that is usable anytime and anywhere.

These students will then arrive at college where some policies are incongruent with the practice at their former high school (such as student code of conduct violations for having a device in class, or an expectation that a device will be available to them).
• Embedded courses (ALP) are the way to deliver remedial education: if a student with 12th grade skills is likely to succeed in college level work with supplemental support, the public institution of higher education shall offer such student remedial support that is embedded with the corresponding entry level course in a college level program.
• One intensive level course is permissible: an institution may offer a student, with skills below 12th grade, a maximum of one semester of remedial support that is not embedded, provided (1) such support is intended to advance such student toward earning a degree, and (2) the program of remedial support is approved by the Board of Regents for Higher Education
• Transitional strategies – addressed by regional remediation centers: when a student is below the skill level required for success in college level work (8th grade skill level), the public institution of higher education shall offer such student the opportunity to participate in an intensive college readiness program before the start of the next semester. Such student shall complete such intensive college readiness program prior to receiving embedded remedial support.

• For more information, visit: www.ct.edu/initiatives/dev-education
MASSACHUSETTS: COMMUNITY COLLEGE REFORM FY13

• Takes the 15 individual community colleges and brings them together as a unified, state-wide system offering a more streamlined curriculum as well as locally developed, regionally specific jobs & skills training.

• Increased funding will be linked to performance

• Involves the Board of Higher Education in the community college president hiring and evaluation process.

• [http://www.mass.gov/bb/h1/fy13h1/os_13/h30.htm](http://www.mass.gov/bb/h1/fy13h1/os_13/h30.htm)
Pennsylvania: Senate Bill 360 (2013)

- The state and counties haven’t been honoring their 1/3rd of the funding they promised in 1963 with the establishment of the Community College Act.

- The new bill would help keep tuition affordable, since the lack of state and county funding leads to increases in tuition for students.

- The bill was tabled in July 2013, but will likely reappear in future legislative sessions.
NEW JERSEY: PARCC & BIG IDEAS

- Community college presidents have agreed to use PARCC statewide as the college placement test beginning in 2014-15

- The New Jersey Council of County Colleges has a Big Ideas Project to work on better alignment between K-12 and community colleges and improving student success. [www.njccc.org/professional-resources/the-big-ideas-project/](http://www.njccc.org/professional-resources/the-big-ideas-project/)
The CUNY system implemented a Pathways initiative this fall across all of its undergraduate 2 & 4 year colleges requiring all schools to use the same 30 credit general education common core.

Faculty and unions opposed it, calling it watered down curriculum designed by a “handpicked crew of politically pliant faculty”.

Queensborough Community College English faculty refused to implement it

www.cuny.edu/academics/initiatives/pathways.html

www.thenation.com/blog/172243/what-cuny-pathways-means-undergraduates#
• Berghouse v. Sequoia School District

A California student and parent sued over their child’s removal from an English class for cheating, claiming that the school was jeopardizing his chances of getting into a good 4-year college. The parent had purchased the teacher’s edition of the textbook so their son could have all the answers. The court said the parents couldn’t prove any harm, so the family dropped the case.

• Sigmon-Moore v. Gaston County Schools
  • A North Carolina teacher posted copies of her students’ work on her Facebook page in 2012, highlighting their grammar and spelling errors. She was suspended from her job.
• Religious Accommodation

Students have been asking for Fridays off from school or exams because they are Pastafarians who worship the Flying Spaghetti Monster. Courts have (so far) ruled these are not legitimate requests.

A North Carolina student claiming to be a member of the Church of Body Modification won a case against her school for a ban on facial piercings. (Iacono vs. Croom)
COURTS & ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

• Reichert vs. Elizabethtown College

Student with ADHD and epilepsy was caught cheating on an exam and given a second chance by his professor, but only if exams were taken in the department office (vs. disability services). He was then accused of plagiarizing a group project and having outside help with his homework/writing assignments. The court ruled that disciplining him for a code of conduct violation was not a violation of the ADA or RA.

• Fisher v. University of Texas (Supreme Court)

Workable race-neutral alternatives should be used wherever possible to achieve the educational benefits of diversity.
THE ROLE OF FOUNDATIONS IN SHAPING POLICY

• Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (MD) and Lumina Foundation (Goal 2015 – 60% higher ed degree) are the big players. They have spun off programs called Complete College America (CT, FL, TN), Jobs for the Future (FL, NC, OH), and Achieving the Dream (a Lumina project).

• These foundations partner with public policy makers in the U.S. to ensure students graduate from high school ready to succeed in college. This includes restricting remedial college course offerings and tying appropriations/funds to graduation rates. Unfortunately, they don’t seem to have backgrounds in developmental education.

• These private foundations are also not accountable to voters, but they’re influencing those who vote on legislation.

The role of think tanks in shaping policy

- American Enterprise Institute (AEI)
  - Were the architects of George W. Bush’s public policy. They are right-leaning and advocate for limiting government involvement in education. Pro-vouchers and improving college graduation rates.

- Brookings Institution
  - Left-leaning. Contributed to the creation of the United Nations, deregulation, and welfare reform. Currently working on issues like mobile learning and federal financial aid improvement.
WHAT’S AHEAD?

• Middle Colleges
  • Designed to allow high school students to graduate with both their high school diploma AND an associate’s degree. Paid for through regular K-12 public school funds. Supported by the Middle College National Consortium [www.mcnc.us](http://www.mcnc.us)

• MOOCs
  • EdX, Coursera, Udemy, Udacity, etc.

• College Unbound
  • Life experience credit, customized degree online, BA Individualized Studies

• Digital remedial education
  • PARCC/12th grade remediation

• Teachers with guns?
  • Oklahoma, Missouri, Minnesota, South Dakota, Oregon, Texas, Arizona are all considering laws allowing teachers and school administrators to carry firearms at school.
HOW TO GET INVOLVED

• Sign up to help monitor legislative developments in your state, passing the information along to your TYCA Northeast legislative/policy analyst to compile and share with the entire NE membership and develop positions when needed

• Advocate on behalf of TYCA-NE in your state

• Search out your college legislative agenda and share any concerns you have with your college administration
QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

- WHAT DID WE MISS?

- ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED IN TRACKING LEGISLATION FOR YOUR STATE?