



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

Support Children with Disabilities

The following legislation affects children with disabilities and their families:

HB 1255/SB 705: Education – Physical Restraint and Seclusion – Limitations, Reporting, & Training

Prohibits seclusion in public schools for any reason, and prohibits seclusion in nonpublic schools unless a school has a licensed physician, clinical psychologist, or licensed clinical social worker in the building, and requires MSDE to make recommendations about reducing restraint. It also requires local school systems to report more data about the use of restraint and seclusion, and requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to make specific recommendations to local school systems with the highest rates of restraint and seclusion how to reduce their use.

- Also requires MSDE to develop an accountability system, partner with colleges and universities to identify gaps in teacher and service provider preparation with respect to positive behavior supports and trauma informed care, and develop a mandatory professional development program for all teachers and service providers so staff can use positive behavior supports and trauma informed care interventions.

HB 850/SB 666: Schools, Prekindergarten Programs, and County Boards of Education - Discrimination

Protects all students, Prekindergarten-21, who are enrolled in public schools and in schools receiving public funding from discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

- Private schools that don't receive federal funds don't have to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Private schools run by religious organizations don't have to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

If Maryland is going to use state funds to provide scholarships for students to attend private schools, those schools should protect students' civil rights.

HB 136/SB 299: Education – Public and Nonpublic Schools – Seizure Action Plans

Brings awareness to all members of the educational community who work directly with students so that students living with epilepsy or a seizure disorder can feel safe in school and reach their full potential. It does this by requiring:

- Two school employees to be trained in recognizing the signs and symptoms of a seizure, administering first aid, and administering seizure medication.
- Training for school personnel with direct contact of students about the signs and symptoms of a seizure.
- Parents of a student diagnosed with a seizure disorder to collaborate with school personnel to create a seizure action plan.

Maryland State Department of Education FY 2023 Budget

The Governor's proposed FY 2023 budget includes the following funding, among other things that will impact children with disabilities and their families:

- \$2.8 million increase in funding for the Autism Waiver so an additional 100 children receive services. **There are over 10,000 students in Maryland identified as having autism, 6,200 children are on the Autism Waiver registry waiting for services and the Autism Waiver currently supports 1,300 children and their families.**
- \$14.6 million for the Maryland Infants & Toddlers Program – a \$4.3 million increase over FY 2022. **The Maryland Infants & Toddlers Program supports over 19,000 children and their families each year. Early intervention services play a critical role in a child's development.**
- \$10 million for the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program. BOOST provides scholarships to students to attend private schools. Most private schools do not have to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) so even if a student with a disability enrolls, the private school does not have to provide the services and supports he or she needs.
- \$170.7 million for public prekindergarten education (Federal & Special funds).
- \$57.2 million in hold-harmless grants to ensure every county (or school system) receives more funding for education than in FY 2022 even if less students are enrolled.

MSDE's FY 2023 proposed budget totals \$8.3 billion.

For additional information about the bills highlighted here, please contact:
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