

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FREDERICK COUNTY

191 South East Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Brad Young
President

Telephone 301-696-6850
FAX 301-696-6950

SUPPORT

HB 206 – Unaccompanied Minors in Need of Shelter and Supportive Services

Hearing of the House Appropriations Committee, January 28, 2020

Frederick County Public Schools

The mission of the Board of Education of Frederick County is to reach our students with exceptional teaching and caring support, challenge them to achieve their potential, and prepare them for success in a global society. The mission of our Homeless Education Program is to ensure that all students who are experiencing transition in their night time residence, as defined under the McKinney-Vento Act, are identified as McKinney-Vento eligible and understand their rights; ensure that McKinney-Vento/homeless students enroll in and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school; collaborate with educational services and community organizations to support students and their families who are experiencing homelessness.

The Board of Education of Frederick County supports the enactment of HB 206, which establishes that unaccompanied minors who are experiencing homelessness have legal capacity to consent to admission to sheltering programs registered with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.

During the 2019 school year, 158 Unaccompanied Homeless Youth were enrolled in Frederick County Public School and were consequently vulnerable to exploitation, unsafe living situations, and dropping-out of school. HB 206 will ensure that unaccompanied homeless minors in Maryland have increased access to safe shelter, a critical step in ensuring all students have the equal opportunity to have a successful academic experience as well as achieve their potential.

The Board of Education of Frederick County strongly urges the committee to issue a Favorable Report on HB 206. Please contact Karen Yoho, Board of Education Legislative Representative at karen.yoho@fcps.org, with any questions.