

<b>Bill:</b>	House Bill 472	<b>Date:</b>	February 7, 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Education - School Mapping Data Program - Established	<b>Committee:</b>	Ways & Means
<b>Position:</b>	Letter of Information	<b>Contact:</b>	Kim Buckheit <a href="mailto:kim.buckheit1@maryland.gov">kim.buckheit1@maryland.gov</a> 443-902-0622

On behalf of the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of information for House Bill 472. MCSS remains committed to assisting Local Education Agencies (LEA) in the implementation of a layered approach to school safety. The inclusion of emerging technologies is one element of a well designed school safety plan.

The Maryland State Department of Education Emergency Planning Guidelines recommend that locals consider “hav[ing] site plans for each school facility readily available and ensure that they are shared with first responders and agencies responsible for emergency preparedness. Access to these site plans should be available from users/devices external to the school facility on a single page and electronically when possible.”<sup>1</sup>

House Bill 427 would establish legal requirements for digital school maps providing standardization that would allow local, state, and federal public safety agencies providing emergency services to quickly become situationally aware when responding to an emergency event at any school. The detailed requirement to verify accuracy of map details to include current room labels, hallway names, entry key boxes, and other important information is invaluable to increase response time of emergency personnel. It is recommended that dialogue with local response agencies occur to determine the use and effectiveness of digital maps in response to school based incidents.

MCSS estimates that a digital map of a school would cost from \$1,000 to \$3,000 depending on the size and complexity of the facility and mapping specifications . Although, LEAs would be able to procure funds for this purpose through the Safe Schools Fund the allocated amount would not be sufficient to meet the total cost for most Maryland jurisdictions even if the entirety of their allocation was used for this singular purpose. The Safe Schools Fund<sup>2</sup> has

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<sup>1</sup> “Maryland Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems and Schools”, December 2019, Maryland State Department of Education. [Maryland Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems and Schools - December 2019 Edition](#)

<sup>2</sup> The Safe Schools Fund includes funding that is separately allocated for School Resource Officers and adequate law enforcement coverage in the amount of \$10MM and \$600,000 for the categories eligible under Ed. Art. §7-1512(f).

been funded with \$600,000 dollars (\$25,000 per school system) for the last three years. MCSS reinforces the need for schools to continue allocating resources to support layered school safety efforts related to the prevention and mitigation of violent behaviors.

Thank you again for taking the time to review this information as you consider House Bill 472.