



# Maryland Education Coalition



Ellie Mitchell & Rick Tyler, Jr. – Co-Chairs

Web site - [www.marylandeducationcoalition.org](http://www.marylandeducationcoalition.org)

\*\*\*

Email – [md.education.coalition@gmail.com](mailto:md.education.coalition@gmail.com)

---

January 31, 2024

**HOUSE BILL 336:** Maryland Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program-Materials for Individualized Education Program Meetings  
House Ways and Means Committee  
POSITION - FAVORABLE

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) was originally founded over 40 years ago (1980) and is the oldest, most experienced, and diverse public education advocacy coalition in Maryland. MEC advocates for adequate funding, equitable policies, and transparent accountability statewide for all public school students in Maryland.

MEC is pleased to support House Bill 336, which would require that at least once per year, parents of children with disabilities receive written informational materials about the Maryland Achieving a **Better** Life Experience (ABLE) Program. The ABLE program allows families to create tax-free savings **account** for their member **with a** disability to **be** used for disability-related expenses. Significantly, House **Bill 336** also requires **that** these informational materials be translated into the parent's native language if the parent's native language is not English. EAC members feel confident that the State is already required to ensure that written materials are available **upon** request in an alternative format **for** those who are **unable to read** print; **it** may be helpful for House **Bill 336 to include** this **provision for** the sake of clarity.

Although information **about the** ABLE Program will be helpful **to** parents of **students** with disabilities of all ages, as it will help families financially plan for their **children**, understanding and setting up ABLE **accounts** can be an important step **in** transition planning for youth with disabilities as they get older **and** the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team identifies the services and supports **needed** to help a student **exit** the school system as independently as possible.

**For these reasons, the Maryland Education Coalition supports House Bill 336 and urges a favorable report.**