

EDUCATION ADVOCACY COALITION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SENATE BILL 507: PUBLIC SCHOOLS—INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES—ACCESSIBILITY AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

February 18, 2026

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC) is a coalition of nearly 50 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland. The EAC supports Senate Bill 507, which would require each school system to identify and report issues of accessibility that could impede evacuation or emergency response for individuals with disabilities in public school buildings. The report would be shared with the Maryland Center for School Safety in order to develop a plan with the Center to address accessibility and emergency planning issues.

Senate Bill 507 has the laudable purpose of bringing school accessibility issues and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act to the fore. Although this bill does not require the jurisdiction or local school system to make accessibility modifications to its schools, it expands the required safety review to consider accessibility.

Schools are hubs of activity for students, families, staff, and community members. It is important for the Maryland Center for School Safety to know if a school is accessible and safe in times of necessary evacuation or emergency response.

For these reasons, the EAC supports Senate Bill 507.

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Respectfully submitted,

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