



**HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

**HOUSE BILL 505**

**PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS - STUDENT SCHOOL TRANSFERS - ACADEMIC  
RECORDS DOCUMENTATION**

**FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

**OPPOSE**

Maryland CAPE is our state's chapter and one of 40 state chapters of the Council for American Private Education. Our network includes the Catholic, Christian, Evangelical Lutheran, Friends, Independent, Jewish, Lutheran, Montessori, Muslim, and Seventh Day Adventist school communities. We speak on behalf of over 138,000 nonpublic school students attending over one thousand nonpublic schools across our great state of Maryland.

House Bill 505 would require a school to accept a variety of documents in lieu of a formal transcript in such cases where the formal transcript is being withheld.

Tuition is a fundamental means by which nonpublic schools cover the numerous expenses required for proper maintenance and operation. For this reason, it may sometimes be necessary for a school to have the option of implementing certain punitive measures if a responsible party fails to fulfill the agreed-upon tuition payment. The tuition agreement between a parent or caregiver and the school is entered into voluntarily, with clear terms. If a parent or caregiver attempts to avoid or renege on their financial obligations, it is essential that the school has the ability to encourage them to meet their commitments.

One of these measures is the withholding of the formal transcript in cases where a parent or guardian decided to switch their child to a different school and is attempting to evade settling the debt owed. Withholding the transcript is a tool that allows the school to incentivize the parent to come to a peaceful settlement. It is not done lightly, but is sometimes necessary. It is important that our schools retain their independence rather than taking away what is often the school's only resource to ensure that the money owed to them is paid. House Bill 505 would remove this resource.

We therefore respectfully request an UNFAVORABLE report on House Bill 505. Thank you.