



**Testimony in SUPPORT of
House Bill 505: Public and Nonpublic Schools Student Transfers – Academic Records Documentation**

House Ways and Means Committee

Position: Favorable

February 18, 2026

At Strong Schools Maryland, we work to support the faithful implementation and full funding of the promises legislated through the landmark Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The Blueprint envisions a public education system where all students can feel safe and supported to learn and thrive in their school community. It was designed to specifically address systemic inequities that disproportionately impact historically marginalized communities. As a result, **Strong Schools Maryland offers favorable testimony in support of HB 505 – Public and Nonpublic Schools – Student School Transfers – Academic Records Documentation** which aims to ensure that students are not denied timely enrollment or continuity of instruction as a result of the delay of official academic records.

Students transferring between schools, whether between public and non-public or between different local education agencies, experience disruptions in their education when transcripts or records are withheld. These delays can result in missed instructional time, improper course placement, barriers to participation in advanced course work, and unnecessary stress for students and families. Disputes can be due to events unrelated to academic performance and beyond the control of the student. Furthermore, this mistreatment can be compounded by systemic and interpersonal biases within school systems.

By expanding the current law to require schools to accept unofficial transcripts, report cards, test score reports, documentation of awards and honors, unofficial AP or IB exam results, or unofficial records for the purpose of allowing a student to continue their education. The proposed language also does not eliminate the need for official records, rather it ensures that students can enroll and attend classes while administrative matters are resolved. The policy expansion is aligned with the goal of the Blueprint as students experiencing transitions, particularly those from low income families, immigrant families, or historically marginalized communities, are disproportionately impacted by transitions. Ensuring that schools accept reasonable documentation safeguards students from academic setbacks and allows them to maintain progress towards their goals.

HB505 promotes the continuation of student learning and consistency across public and non-public schools by establishing a uniform standard for temporary documentation. A student's right to learn should not be contingent upon unresolved disputes between institutions.

For these reasons, Strong Schools Maryland urges the House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 505.

Please contact Kenzie Funk at kenzie@strongschoolsmaryland.org for additional questions.