

Chapter 665

(Senate Bill 507)

AN ACT concerning

Public Schools – Individuals With Disabilities – Accessibility and Emergency Planning

FOR the purpose of requiring each local school system to identify, in its regular safety evaluation, issues of accessibility for individuals with disabilities; requiring local school systems to include in a certain annual report instances in which a public school facility became inaccessible for a student with a disability in a manner that could impede evacuation or an emergency response; ~~requiring a certain annual report to be confidential and limiting disclosure of the report to certain individuals;~~ and generally relating to accessibility and emergency planning for individuals with disabilities.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Education
 Section 7–1510(a) and (f)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Education
 Section 7–1510(b), (d), and (e)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

7–1510.

(a) On or before June 15, 2019, and regularly thereafter, each local school system shall conduct a safety evaluation of each public school under the local school system's jurisdiction to:

(1) Identify and, if necessary, develop solutions for physical safety concerns, including issues with building security **AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES OF ACCESSIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**; and

(2) Identify and evaluate any patterns of safety concerns on school property or at school-sponsored events.

(b) In performing the safety evaluations, each designated safety coordinator shall:

(1) Consult with the Center for guidance;

(2) Coordinate with the Interagency Commission on School Construction's facility assessment process, established under § 5-310 of this article, in identifying issues with public school facilities that could impact school safety; and

(3) Submit a summary of the completed safety evaluations to the Center.

(d) On or before August 1, 2020, and regularly thereafter, each local school system shall update the school emergency plan for each public school in the school system's jurisdiction to:

(1) Include detailed plans for the manner in which each public school will address:

(i) Behavioral threats;

(ii) Emergency events; and

(iii) Accommodations for students with disabilities in emergency events;

(2) Conform with the Emergency Planning Guidelines updated under subsection (c) of this section; and

(3) Incorporate any changes required under subsection (f) of this section.

(e) Each local school system shall submit the plans updated under subsection (d) of this section to the Center for review and comment.

(f) (1) On or before August 1, 2020, and each August 1 thereafter, each local school system shall submit a report to the Center that includes, for the immediately preceding school year:

(i) Aggregate data about threats made against any school or school system facility;

(ii) Information about any school lockdowns, evacuations, or other emergency responses that occurred;

(III) INSTANCES IN WHICH A PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITY BECAME INACCESSIBLE FOR A STUDENT WITH A DISABILITY IN A MANNER THAT COULD IMPEDE EVACUATION OR AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE;

[(iii)] (IV) Incidents in which a public school’s emergency plan failed in part or in whole to function as anticipated in an emergency or an emergency drill; and

[(iv)] (V) School hours spent in an emergency or an emergency drill.

(2) Each local school system shall, in consultation with the Center, update each emergency plan to correct weaknesses identified under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

~~**(3) (i) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (ii) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION:**~~

~~**1. SHALL BE CONFIDENTIAL;**~~

~~**2. MAY NOT BE DISCLOSED; AND**~~

~~**3. IS NOT CONSIDERED A PUBLIC RECORD AND SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM INSPECTION UNDER THE MARYLAND PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT.**~~

~~**(ii) A REPORT MAY BE DISCLOSED TO A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON REQUEST.**~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, May 26, 2026.