

# Education Advocacy Coalition

for Students with Disabilities

**Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**Senate Bill 542: Public School Students—Daily Physical Activity  
(Student Health and Fitness Act)**

**March 3, 2020**

**Position: Support**

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC), a coalition of more than 25 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland, supports Senate Bill 542, which would require physical education and recess for all students in Maryland schools, including those with disabilities whose education is provided in accordance with an individualized education program (IEP).

Research indicates that regular physical activity, included in the school curriculum, produces physical, psychological and intellectual benefits. This is equally true for students with disabilities.

More than 100,000 students with disabilities are educated in Maryland's public schools. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the primary federal law governing the education of students with disabilities, requires the provision of a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment in which the student's needs can be met. Physical education, adapted if necessary, is required for children and youth aged three to 21 who require special education services.

We are pleased that Senate Bill 542 requires physical activity to be developmentally appropriate and that the bill addresses the needs of all students, including those with disabilities. The EAC is pleased to support Senate Bill 542.

For more information or if questions, please contact Leslie Seid Margolis, Chairperson, at [lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org](mailto:lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org) or 410-727-6352, ext. 2505.

Selene Almazan, Selene Almazan Law, LLC

Rene Averitt-Sanzone, Parents' Place of Maryland

Linda Barton, Ms.Ed, Education Consultant

Elizabeth Benevides, Howard County Autism Society

Ellen A. Callegary, Law Offices of Ellen A. Callegary, P.A.

Michelle Davis, ABCs for Life Success

Jennifer Engel Fisher, Weinfeld Education Group  
Lisa Frank, Special Kids Company  
Ann Geddes, Maryland Coalition of Families  
Morgan Horvath, Abilities Network  
Nicole Joseph, Law Offices of Nicole Joseph  
Rachel London, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council  
Leslie Seid Margolis, Disability Rights Maryland  
Mark B. Martin, Law Offices of Mark B. Martin, P.A.  
Ellen O'Neill, Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center  
Rebecca Rienzi, Pathfinders for Autism  
Sarah Ruth, Parent Advocacy Consortium  
Lori Scott, The Arc Maryland  
Karleen Spitulnik, Decoding Dyslexia Maryland  
Ronnetta Stanley, Loud Voices Together  
Wayne Steedman, Steedman Law Group  
Maureen van Stone, Project HEAL at Kennedy Krieger Institute