

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
Support with Amendment
House Bill 1188
Public Schools-Enrollment Location - Continuity**

February 28, 2020

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports the effort of the sponsor for trying to rid barriers for students that find themselves in state custody. This bill would prohibit a county superintendent from withdrawing a student from enrollment in a school that the student is attending if the student is assigned to an educational program that is located in a detention facility, a State-owned and State operated facility that accommodates more than 25 children or any other facility operated primarily for the detention of children who are determined delinquent.

The practice that local school systems follow when a student is taken into the custody of a juvenile center is for the student's education record to be transferred to the juvenile center. Transferring records has been defined as removing a student from the local school system's enrollment. The issue that the legislation is trying to resolve appears to be one that will allow students, when released, to immediately attend the school in which s/he attended prior to the stay at the state facility. The school board agrees that there should be no delay in the education of students and believes this will alleviate some of that delay.

However, there is a concern because a student that stays enrolled in a school, but does not attend class, is marked absent. In many cases, the number of days absent would currently reflect as the student being chronically absent, which would not only impact the absenteeism rate at the school, but also have the school's attendance rate be reflected poorly on the Maryland School Report Card.

In order for this legislation to not penalize schools, COMAR and the Maryland Records Manual/COMAR 13A.08.07.03 would need to be changed to reflect a specific code that these students can be given so as not to penalize the school or school system. Additionally, school systems would need to modify its current computer system (in Baltimore City it is Infinite Campus) to address the changes that will be made to allow for the new coding of these "absent" students. COMAR 13A.08.07.03 <http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/comarhtml/13a/13a.08.07.03.htm> Manual <http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/OCP/Publications/MDStudentRecordsSystemManual2016.pdf>

As background, currently, when a student transfers to a State agency, foster care or correctional education facility, original student records must be sent in their entirety, within 3 school days of the receipt of request, unless a specific request that is more convenient and mutually agreed upon is made by the receiving school. Also, after 15 days the sending school system pays a daily rate for the student that is in custody if that student was in the prior school year enrollment.

For the foregoing reasons the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports with amendment HB 1188 and urges a favorable report.

Amendment

Page 2 insert, line 24 (renumber the remaining)

(iv) The Maryland State Department of Education shall develop procedures and policies, in consultation with local school boards, that address the proper coding of students that are enrolled in the school system but are receiving an educational program in a facility listed under (b) (2)(ii)(2) (v) a child in a facility listed under (b)(2)(ii)(2) shall be marked in a manner to allow the school system to receive funding if the child meets the criteria as established in the Education Article 5-202.

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