

HB 400 – Public Schools Enrollment – Continuity

Ways and Means

January 27, 2021

The requirement for timely transfer of records to State facilities is already addressed in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.08.07, which delineates the process for the timely transfer of records for students in State supervised care. This regulation sets parameters for the transfer of records and the process of notification to either the sending or receiving schools.

Additionally, the MSDE would be responsible for the development and implementation of a procedure for the re-enrollment of the child, a process which normally takes place at the local level. Additional staff would be needed to facilitate this process with the local school system. Staff would be essential in order that the MSDE develop an educational plan for each child who is detained for more than four weeks. The plan is required to be designed to meet the child's individual needs and ensure that, to the extent practicable, the child is able to seamlessly reintegrate into the home school. This requirement under the direction of the Department, would need to be implemented in consultation with each local school system. Currently, procedures are in place for the reintegration of students returning from facilities in all schools in Maryland. Transition teams meet when the student is slated to return to the school and create the schedule and work on the transfer of grades and credits, should any have been earned.

The MSDE is dedicated to supporting continuity in the instructional program for students in State facilities. Many of the requirements in the bill are already being managed at the local school system level. Adding the MSDE into the process would take the educational responsibilities away from the school system and would not allow for the local school system to act in the most efficient manner.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB 400**. For further information, please contact Zachary Hands, at 410-767-0504, or Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov.