

Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 394: PUBLIC SCHOOLS—FEES FOR SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES—PROHIBITION

JANUARY 20, 2021

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC), a coalition of more than 30 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland, supports House Bill 394, which would prohibit local school systems from charging students a fee for enrollment in a summer school course if the student attends school in the local school system, needs credit for the course in order to graduate from high school, and took the course but did not pass it or receive credit for it. This bill is important to students with disabilities who need access to summer school courses in order to remain on track to obtain their diplomas. Their ability to access these courses should not depend on whether their families have the money to pay for summer school courses. Further, House Bill 394 is consistent with federal and state laws, which mandate a free appropriate public education for all students with disabilities.

For these reasons, the EAC supports House Bill 394.

For more information, please contact Leslie Seid Margolis at 410-727-6352, ext. 2505 or at lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Selene Almazan, Selene Almazan Law, LLC
Rene Averitt-Sanzone, The Parents' Place of Maryland
Linda Barton, MSED, Education Advocate
Elizabeth Benevides, Howard County Autism Society
Ellen A. Callegary, Law Offices of Ellen A. Callegary, P.A.
Michelle Davis, ABCs for Life Success
SarahRuth Davis, Parent Advocacy Consortium
Jennifer Engel Fisher, Weinfeld Education Group
Lisa Frank, Special Kids Company
Shamoyia Gardiner, Strong Schools Maryland
Ann Geddes, Maryland Coalition of Families
Kalman Hettleman, Independent Advocate
Morgan Durand Horvath, Abilities Network
Nicole Joseph, Law Offices of Nicole Joseph
Rosemary Kitzinger and Marjorie Guldan, Bright Futures, LLC
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

Melissa Riccobono, Maryland Parents of Blind Children/National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

Rebecca Rienzi, Pathfinders for Autism

Lori Scott, The Arc Maryland

Monica Simpkins, Learning Disabilities Association of Maryland

Karleen Spitulnik, Decoding Dyslexia Maryland

Ronnetta Stanley, Loud Voices Together

Wayne Steedman, Steedman Law Group, LLC

Maureen van Stone, Mallory Finn Legg and Alyssa Thorn, Project HEAL at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Jessica Williams, Education Due Process Solutions, LLP