

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Chair, Baltimore City Board  
of School Commissioners

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## **Testimony of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners Support with Amendment House Bill 400 – Public Schools Enrollment Location Continuity**

**January 27, 2021**

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 the withdrawal of a student from enrollment in a school that the student is attending until after the disposition of the student's juvenile case.

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. Currently, 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 and while in the state facility the student can continue to receive appropriate education. 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>

For the foregoing reasons the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports with amendment HB 400 and urges a favorable report.

### **Amendment**

Page 3 insert, line 20 (renumber the remaining)

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) 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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