

**MICHELE GUYTON**  
*Legislative District 42B*  
Baltimore County

Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

Finance Resources Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 306  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3793 · 301-858-3793  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3793  
Michele.Guyton@house.state.md.us

**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

February 10, 2021

**In Support of HB 714 - Special Education – Learning Continuity Plan - Requirement**

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am presenting HB714 which is an emergency preparedness bill to support students with IEPs or 504 plans in the event of a prolonged school closure for any reason. Under this legislation, school IEP and 504 teams will be asked to update a student's plan during the next regularly scheduled team meeting after October 2021. At that time, they are required to add language to the existing education plan that demonstrates how specific special education and support goals will be met in the event of a prolonged school closure.

Education teams, parents and students have all learned a great deal about how each student learned best during the past year. WE have also learned what did not work well and that a prolonged lapse between closure and development of a plan is problematic to student success and parent/school partnerships. This bill is asking teams to work together to agree on a contingency plan to deliver services in the event of a school emergency based on their observations during the current prolonged shutdown. These services may be in person or virtual but the plan should include a provision for education in the event of a cyberattack when no access to virtual learning may be available. This advance planning directive will provide an educational framework with input from everyone involved that will make the transition to non-traditional educational more seamless and less contentious if necessary in the future.

Sincerely,

Delegate Michele Guyton