



**Testimony in support of
House Bill 320: Maryland Longitudinal Data System - Definition of Student Data -
Alteration**

**Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
Position: Favorable**

April 4, 2023

Strong Schools Maryland is a network of education advocates dedicated to ensuring the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. As a member of the Education Advocacy Coalition, we are always seeking opportunities to advance education policy for students with disabilities. **Strong Schools Maryland urges a favorable vote on House Bill 320: Maryland Longitudinal Data System - Definition of Student Data - Alteration.**

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future envisions a World-Class system of public schools for our state's students. Central to this is relevant, high-quality data collection to account for every student, including our students who are neurodiverse.

Currently, the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) collects a multitude of student data such as demographics, academic performance, discipline, and more. House Bill 320 would alter MLDS to include the collection of student disability data disaggregated by specific disability category. This would close a crucial gap in data collection for students with disabilities and generate more accurate student information to advise key decision makers.

We don't value what we don't count. The data we collect can be the difference between providing World-Class education or letting students slip through the cracks.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 320.

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