**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**

CREATING CHANGE · IMPROVING LIVES

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**
**HB 320: Maryland Longitudinal Data System – Definition of Student Data - Alteration**
April 4, 2023
**Position: Support**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates changes to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. We create change in many ways, including advocating for people to be included and supported so they are successful and advising state leaders about ways to improve, laws, policies, programs, and services. It is hard to do either without accurate, consistent data.

**WHAT does this bill do?**

- Adds student disability data by specific disability to the definition of student data for the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS)
- Therefore requires the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center to collect data about each student's disability disaggregated by type of disability

**WHY is it important?**

- **Improves data collection for a large group of students.** While the MLDS currently collects student data about assessments, academic performance and completion, degrees, credentials, or diplomas obtained, discipline, demographics, child welfare, and other key areas affecting attendance, educational performance, and potential barriers to college and career readiness, **the MLDS lacks specific information about students with disabilities.**

  - ➢ There are over 110,000 students with disabilities in Maryland public schools.
  - ➢ Students with disabilities are 12.5% of the total student population.

- **Increases available data and information and promotes transparency.** This additional data helps the state better realize the purpose of MLDS – to complete full analyses of the educational outcomes, college and career readiness, and workforce outcomes for all students, including students with disabilities.

- **Supports improved student outcomes for students with disabilities.** The purpose of the MLDS is to generate information about student performance that can be used to improve the State's education system and guide decision makers. Policymakers and decision-makers have not had complete data about students with disabilities.

Integrating information about students with disabilities into the MLDS allows for more complete and accurate analysis of Maryland's student preparation, progress, and outcomes over time. For all these reasons, the Council supports HB 320.

Contact: Rachel London, Executive Director, RLondon@md-council.org