

Education Advocacy Coalition

for Students with Disabilities

HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
House Bill 870: Division of Rehabilitation Services and Developmental Disabilities
Administration - Memorandum of Understanding
March 14, 2023
Position: Support

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC), a coalition of approximately 40 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland, supports House Bill 870, which would require a memorandum of understanding between the Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Developmental Disabilities Administration. EAC members have a long history of representing or working with students with disabilities in special education matters, including older students who are preparing to transition out of the school system.

For the past six months, several EAC members have served on the Commission to Study the Division of Rehabilitative Services (the Commission). One of the Commission's responsibilities was to consider methods for improving the relationship and communication between transition professionals at the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) and the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). In its interim report, the Commission recommended DORS enter a memorandum of understanding with DDA to "enable DORS to access the necessary medical, psychological, and school documentation of DDA applicants seeking DORS services." The EAC supports this recommendation and agrees that access to medical, psychological, and school documentation will support DORS in better serving consumers.

To this end, the Commission also recommended that a deep dive be conducted into the DORS and DDA documentation requirements to streamline the necessary supporting documentation of services. As one Commission member noted in comments before the last Commission meeting, a formalized data-sharing and partnership process is needed to ensure the timely flow of information between DORS, DDA, and Community Rehabilitation Providers.

For these reasons, the EAC supports House Bill 870.

Respectfully submitted,

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