Maryland
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
Interim State Superintendent of Schools

BILL:	House Bill 890	**DATE:**	February 21, 2024
SUBJECT:	Public Schools – Discipline-Related Data – Collection and Publication	**COMMITTEE:**	Ways and Means
POSITION:	Information Only		
CONTACT:	Akilah Alleyne, Ph.D. 410-767-0504 akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov		

EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing information for consideration regarding House Bill (HB) 890 – *Public Schools – Discipline-Related Data – Collection and Publication*. HB 890 requires MSDE to create for all discipline related data, a data download in a spreadsheet format. The data must be disaggregated by grade level, race, ethnicity, special services, and gender and include alternative school programs and public separate day schools.

HB 890 defines the term "high suspending" for elementary schools and secondary schools and requires MSDE to report the disproportionality data for any school identified as high suspending.

HB 890 requires that MSDE maintain a risk ratio and state comparison threshold of 2.0 to be used for identifying action under the federal regulations implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for schools with high disproportionality. The IDEA specifically outlines the methodology for determining significant disproportionality. See 34 CFR §300.647. This methodology requires the use of a risk ratio, which is currently set at 2.0 pursuant to COMAR 13A.05.02.04(F). Therefore, there is no need for a change to the risk ratio measure, and use of a state comparison threshold would be inconsistent with federal regulations.

Currently, MSDE collects data on LEA alternative schools in our discipline collection. However, if alternative schools that are not under an LEA are included in this definition, MSDE would need to create a new collection for those schools since the Department currently does not collect discipline data for them. This would require additional staff time and resources to design and manage this collection.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB 890**. For further information, please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne at 410-767-0504 or akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov.