



Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 851 – Public Schools - Individuals With Disabilities - Main Entrance Accessibility and Emergency Planning

Hearing Date: March 5, 2025

Position: Support

The Coordinating Center supports *Senate Bill 851 – Public Schools - Individuals With Disabilities - Main Entrance Accessibility and Emergency Planning*. The bill requires public schools to report on plans to address the needs of students with disabilities during emergencies.

The Coordinating Center provides care coordination to nearly 10,000 Marylanders annually, including students enrolled in the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Autism Waiver), Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Waiver and Wait List Services, the Rare and Expensive Case Management (REM) Program and other home and community-based service waivers and programs. Our goal is to support our clients in living as independently as possible within their own communities. We support this legislation because it provides for accountability of plans to keep students with disabilities safe in a school emergency.

Please vote favorably on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information that is helpful, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.