

Letter of Information
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
House Bill 1185 –
Homeschool Students in Maryland – Right to Play

March 5, 2025

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners wants to alert the Ways and Means Committee that allowing homeschool students to participate in sports is a policy change that can bring about unintended consequences in Baltimore City Schools.

While this bill seems innocuous it is not. In Baltimore City, the school district is a district of choice. This means that the school system does not assign students to specific middle and high schools. Students are allowed to attend a school that they desire, as long as there is space available. Each year, the school system holds a middle school and high school choice fair where students sign up for various schools. Generally, students are granted entrance into their top 2 schools of choice. This bill does not take into account the unique set of circumstances in Baltimore City middle and high schools.

If a home school student chooses to play a sport, under the current legislation, that home schooled student could choose any school in which to play in Baltimore City, based on our open enrollment. What is not fair is that some students at Baltimore City middle and high schools choose a school based on its academic program and that specific school may not have a sport that the student desires, but the homeschooled student would be able to choose any school with a specific sport, regardless of the academic program, while another enrolled Baltimore City public school student could not because the Baltimore City enrolled student chose academic programming over sports.

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