

**TO:** House Ways and Means Committee  
**BILL:** HB 627 – Prohibited Behavior on School Grounds and Property - Application  
**DATE:** February 12, 2025  
**POSITION:** Support

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The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) support **HB 627 – Education Prohibited Behavior on School Grounds – Application**.

MSDE offers this letter in support of HB 627, which aims to amend the existing law concerning prohibited behavior on school grounds and property. This bill seeks to clarify that current laws penalizing disruptive and threatening behavior do not apply to students who commit offenses at the institution they attend or at another institution while participating in or attending a sporting event or other extracurricular program.

The primary goal of HB 627 is to ensure that students are not subject to penalties designed for non-students who disrupt school activities. The bill specifically states that the prohibitions and penalties outlined in Education Article §26–101 do not apply to students currently attending the institution where the offense occurs or students attending another institution while participating in or attending a sporting event or other extracurricular program sponsored by the institution where the offense occurs.

HB 627 does not remove consequences for students who engage in disruptive behavior. Rather, it ensures that student misconduct is handled through appropriate disciplinary channels, as determined by the school or county board.

It is essential to maintain a clear distinction between the disciplinary measures applied to students and the penalties imposed on non-students who disrupt or threaten school environments. This bill will allow for a more focused application of laws intended to address serious threats to school safety and enable schools to handle student misconduct through existing disciplinary procedures.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB 627**. Please contact Akilah Alleyne, Ph.D., Executive Director of Government Affairs, ([akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov](mailto:akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov)) or Zach Hands, Executive Director of the State Board ([zachary.hands1@maryland.gov](mailto:zachary.hands1@maryland.gov)) for any additional information.