

BILL: HOUSE BILL 543
TITLE: County Boards of Education - Substance Abuse Treatment - Student Information Disclosure Policy
DATE: February 10, 2025
POSITION: UNFAVORABLE
COMMITTEE: House – Ways and Means
CONTACT: Brian Dulay, MABE Government Relations Director

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state's local boards of education, opposes House Bill 543. As the voice of Maryland's 24 local boards, MABE believes the principle of local governance by boards of education is fundamental to a sound system of public education. This bill imposes a local government mandate, requiring each county board of education to establish a certain policy requiring certain public schools to disclose a student's directory information or personally identifiable information to a detoxification center or hospital for substance abuse treatment under certain circumstances.

MABE recognizes and appreciates the intent of this legislation to address substance abuse treatment in our public schools. The prevalence of these issues varies greatly from one district to another, however, and the local governance authority of boards of education in Maryland is continuously challenged by state initiatives. MABE seeks to prevent policies that create more confusion than clarity, or worse, policies that increase administrative burden.

For the above reasons, MABE respectfully opposes HB 543.