

HB 608 Primary and Secondary Education - Student I

Uploaded by: Dawana Sterrette

Position: FAV

**Testimony of the
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
In Support of
House Bill 608 – Primary and Secondary Education –
Student immunization – Temporary Admission Period**

February 12, 2025

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports House Bill 608 Primary and Secondary Education – Student Immunization – Temporary Admission Period. This legislation requires each school board to grant temporary admission to schools if a parent or guardian is unable to provide proof of immunization, but present evidence that the student has an appointment for the immunization with a health professional or local health department.

Currently, the law requires that all students from preK through 12th grade receive age appropriate immunizations. Schools must have proof of the immunizations before a student can start school. The required immunizations are:

Varicella: Two doses for students entering grades K–10

Tdap: For students entering grades 7–12

Meningococcal: For students entering grades 7–12

Students may be able to request a religious exemption if they have strongly held religious beliefs that contradict getting the vaccine

To make it easier for students, the Baltimore City Health Department offers vaccine clinics for students throughout the year.

Current law allows students with proof of an appointment within 20 calendar days to be temporarily admitted or temporarily retained in school until the immunization occurs. If the immunization does not take place within 20 calendar days, the student must be removed from school.

The goal of every school board is to have all students in seats and learning. Allowing parents and guardians additional time affords the student the ability to be in school and to learn. This extension of time will also help with chronic absenteeism, as any absence, excused or unexcused counts.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports HB 608 and urges a favorable report.

Dawana Merritt Sterrette, Esq.
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443-250-0190

2025 MASHN HB 608 House Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Navabi

Position: FAV

Maryland Association of School Health Nurses



Committee: House Ways and Means Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 608 – Primary and Secondary Education – Student Immunization – Temporary Admission Period

Hearing Date: February 12, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Association of School Health Nurses (MASHN) supports *House Bill 608 – Primary and Secondary Education – Student Immunization – Temporary Admission Period*. The legislation allows local education agencies to grant up to a 60-day grace period for students to meet immunization requirements. Parents/guardians would be required to submit proof of a vaccination appointment for their children. MASHN supports this legislation because it maintains vaccination requirements while recognizing some parents may need more flexibility in the timeframe in meeting such requirements. Parents face many barriers in obtaining healthcare services for children including lack of a regular provider, transportation, and insurance issues.

We ask for a favorable vote. If we can provide any information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

TerpsExceedSupportLetter.pdf

Uploaded by: jillian copeland

Position: FAV

February 10, 2025

Dear Members of the Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 603

University of Maryland, College Park Campus – TerpsEXCEED Program sponsored by Senators Zucker, Feldman, Guzzone, Rosapepe, and Waldstreicher

As your constituent living in Rockville, I am writing today to ask you to support college students with disabilities in Maryland and across the country. Inclusive higher education support academic growth, social development, independent living, and career advancement for a population of students who have historically not had that opportunity. I am advocating for the Governor to include in the annual budget bill, beginning in fiscal year 2027, the University of Maryland, College Park Campus TerpsEXCEED (Experiencing College through Education and Employment Discovery) Program to provide educational and employment opportunities to students with intellectual disabilities.

I am a Mom of a 25 year old son with disabilities who wasn't given the opportunity to attend college. He would have benefitted greatly from this experience; learning with others on an inclusive college campus, belonging to a community at an age that is so challenging, and spending a few years maturing and preparing for adulthood. He was sad that his brothers attended college, yet he wasn't afforded the opportunity. He would have loved being a Terp like his Dad, a proud alumni.

Additionally as a person who started a non profit, Main Street Connect, who works with adults with disabilities, I see first-hand how inclusive higher education programs support students to postsecondary career outcomes. TerpsEXCEED, University of Maryland's Inclusive Higher Education Program, offers students valuable learning opportunities, meaningful social engagements, and safe and inclusive environments. TerpsEXCEED also provides students with developing internships and job opportunities on and off campus, gathering supervision feedback, and providing direct employment support. This includes goal setting and career planning for each student in the program, leading to outcomes of employment and financial success to continue after the student graduates. It also trains hundreds of peer mentors in kind problem-solving, relationship building and teamwork development, all skills that lead to outstanding future members of Maryland's workforce.

I urge you to work with your congressional colleagues on the Committee to provide institutional support for TerpsEXCEED, that also will support expansion of this programming across Maryland.

The future of our state and nation relies on an educated, skilled, and caring workforce. I am relying on you to do what is right for Maryland.

With warm regards and much appreciation,

Jillian Copeland

Mom of Nicol, age 25

Founder and Board Chair, Main Street Connect, Rockville, MD

www.mainstreetconnect.org

Support_HB608.docx(1).pdf

Uploaded by: Johntel Greene

Position: FAV



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

14201 School Lane | Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 | 301-952-6115 | www.pgcps.org/offices/board-of-education

February 12, 2025

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Superintendent

Chairwoman Atterbeary
Ways and Means Committee

Re: HB608 Primary and Secondary Education - Student Immunization - Temporary Admission Period

Position: Support

Contact: Dr. Phelton Moss, Chair, Policy and Governance Committee
Phelton.Moss@pgcps.org | Johntel Greene, Government Relations Johntel@laperez.org

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins and esteemed members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for the work you all do on behalf of our students, educators, and staff across the state and in the Prince George's County Public Schools community. On behalf of the Prince George's County Board of Education, representing over 130,000 students, we are writing to express our strong support for HB608.

This bill would require each county board to temporarily admit students under specific circumstances related to proof of immunization appointment. It would also expand the window from 20 calendar days to 60 calendar days. We regularly encounter unique student situations that under the current 20 day immunization requirement effectively bars students from schools at a critical time in their learning and our funding formula. As one of Maryland's largest school districts, this small changes in policy can make a significant impact on numbers and funding.

1. Student Impact: Each year, we see students missing valuable instructional time while families work to obtain or verify immunization records. This disruption disproportionately affects our most vulnerable students, including those from mobile families and those experiencing housing transitions. From July 1 to September 30th Prince George's County Public Schools averaged greater than 4,000 newcomer students in grades PreK -12.

2. Financial Impact: The Foundation Program relies on headcount reporting that happens during the start of the enrollment period. When students are barred from the classroom due to immunization records, it can result in millions of dollars of lost funding to our county's education system. For SY25-26, 918 students were identified as not being funded by the per pupil Foundation funding because the students did not provide proof of immunization prior to the September 30th student enrollment submission to the Maryland State Department of Education. This resulted in a loss of \$8,469,468 Foundation funding.



3. Healthcare Access: In Prince George's County, we have observed significant challenges for families scheduling immunization appointments during the compressed time frame between summer break and school start. Medical providers are often overwhelmed with requests during this period, creating unnecessary barriers to school attendance. This legislation aligns with our commitment to supporting families rather than creating barriers.

4. Mobile Student Needs: With our diverse and dynamic student population, we frequently encounter families who move between schools, districts, states, and even countries. These families often don't receive immunization requirement notifications until they begin the enrollment process, creating additional challenges for timely school entry.

For these reasons, the Prince George's County Board of Education urges a favorable report on HB608.

We thank you for your continued support and welcome further discussion. We are prepared to provide any additional information necessary to assist in advancing this bill. We look forward to continuing to partner with you to educate, advocate, and act, together.

Sincerely,

Prince George's County Board of Education

HB 608- Primary and Secondary Education - Student

Uploaded by: Nia Callender

Position: FAV



Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director
1217 S. Potomac Street
Baltimore, MD 21224
410-935-7281
marypat.fannon@pssam.org

BILL: HB 608

TITLE: Primary and Secondary Education - Student Immunization - Temporary Admission Period

DATE: February 12, 2025

POSITION: Favorable

COMMITTEE: House Ways and Means Committee

CONTACT: Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, PSSAM

The Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM), on behalf of all twenty-four public school superintendents, **supports** House Bill 608.

This bill requires each county board of education to grant students temporary school admission if their parent or guardian provides proof of an immunization appointment scheduled within 60 calendar days of enrollment. Currently, regulations allow temporary admission only if the appointment is scheduled within 20 days of enrollment.

Local superintendents recognize the importance of immunization policies in protecting the health and safety of all students and staff. However, PSSAM also acknowledges that some students—particularly newcomers and those in areas with limited medical facilities —face challenges meeting the required timeframes. There are also circumstances outside of the control of students and families, or the public at large. For instance, this year there was a shortage in some vaccines that caused delays in public health clinics in Maryland, affecting some of our most vulnerable students. Regardless of the reason for a delay in obtaining the required immunization or presenting the official paperwork, these students are excluded from official enrollment counts, leading to significant losses in education funding each year.

More importantly than districts losing funding, the current regulations prevent students from receiving instructional services until immunization requirements are met, creating barriers to timely school attendance. Ensuring that students can begin school on time is essential for their academic success. Again, while PSSAM recognizes the importance of widespread immunization for public health, the existing timeline does not account for the unique challenges faced by some students and their families.

For these reasons, PSSAM **supports** House Bill 608 and kindly requests a **favorable** committee report.

HB608 Testimony (Ways and Means).pdf

Uploaded by: Robin Welsh

Position: FAV



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Millard House II, Superintendent | superintendent@pgcps.org
14201 School Lane | Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 | 301-952-6008 | www.pgcps.org/superintendent

BILL: HB 0608

TITLE: Primary and Secondary Education – Student Immunization – Temporary Admission Period

DATE: February 12, 2025

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: SUPPORT

Prince George’s County Public Schools **supports** House Bill 608, which requires each county board to temporarily admit a student to school if the student’s parent or guardian can provide proof that the date of the student’s immunization appointment is within 60 calendar days from the time the student is temporarily admitted into school.

Currently, the regulations allow students to be temporarily admitted to school if the parent or guardian submits proof of the immunization appointment only 20 days from the time the student is temporarily admitted to school.

From July 1 to September 30th Prince George’s County Public Schools averaged greater than 4,000 newcomer students in grades PreK -12. Newcomers are students born outside of the United States and have recently arrived in the country and are new to Prince George’s County Public Schools. Due to a variety of challenges that the families of these students face, many of these students are not able to meet the immunizations requirements in time to be counted as part of the Foundation Program resulting in millions of dollars of lost State funding each school year. For the 2025 school year, 918 students were identified as not being funded by the per pupil Foundation funding because the students did not provide proof of immunization prior to the September 30th student enrollment submission to the Maryland State Department of Education. This resulted in a loss of \$8,469,468 Foundaton funding. If House Bill 608 had been in place for the start of the 2025 school year, all but 58 students would have been included in the pupil enrollment count and Prince George’s County would have received the funding needed to educate the 860 students who were eventually enrolled.

In addition to lost funding, the current regulations result in these students being excluded from receiving instructional services until the immunization requirements are met. Because attending school is crucial for equipping students with essential knowledge and skills that form the foundation for academic and career success, the lack of attendance has the potential to negatively impact these students’ future success and achievement in school. PGCPS understands the importance of the immunization program when considering public health and will work to ensure that all students comply; however, the current timeline is too short when considering the specific needs of these students and families. The enactment of HB 608 would be crucial in ensuring that students are able to attend school at the start of the school year.

For these reasons, Prince George’s County Public Schools requests a **favorable** report on HB 608.

Thank you.

PGCex_Support_HB 608.pdf

Uploaded by: Sasha Desrouleaux

Position: FAV



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 608: Primary and Secondary Education - Student Immunization - Temporary Admission Period

SPONSORS: Delegates Kim Taylor, Amprey, Boafo, Conaway, Crutchfield, Fennell, Harris, Harrison, Lehman, J. Long, Martinez, Ruff, Simpson, Taveras, Wells, Williams, and Woods

HEARING DATE: February 12, 2025 at 1:00PM

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION:	SUPPORT
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The office of the Acting Prince George's County Executive urges **SUPPORT** of **House Bill 608: Primary and Secondary Education - Student Immunization - Temporary Admission Period**, requiring the extension of temporary admission to schools for a specified time frame if the parent or guardian of a student is unable to provide proof of immunization under certain circumstances. As written, the bill acknowledges the scale of the difficulty faced by certain families, addresses a critical source of potential revenue loss faced by the school system, and emphasizes social and emotional impact of keeping children and their families engaged in education through administrative difficulties.

With 132,854 students enrolled as of the September 30, 2024, Prince George's County Public School ranks as one of the largest school districts in the nation and stands as the second largest school district in Maryland. Each year, an average of 4,000 newcomer students and their parents choose to begin the journey to their American dream through an education at our public schools. As many of you know or even experienced, these families can come from any corner the world, each arriving with their own unique stories and situations, often describing the very difficult realities encountered through their individualized and sometimes tumultuous resettlement processes, rendering meeting strict immunization record requirements an extreme difficulty for many. But this administration believes that these families, too, deserve access to life-changing education, and that as written,

the changes proposed by this bill attest to the acknowledgement of these sobering truths.

Further, the exclusion resulting from not meeting the immunization requirements by the current deadline, means that students who do eventually attend school later that year, are not counted and funded as part of the Foundation Program—the main program in general education aid, providing per pupil funding aid to teach jurisdiction based on enrollment. Each year, this barrier results in millions of dollars of lost financial aid. As you are very aware, the financial pressures currently being placed on our schools by factors ranging from inconsistent policy guidance from the federal government to our very own state structural deficit, makes the need for fixes like the one proposed critical in continuing to provide a world-class education to every student who walks through the doors of our public school system.

Attending and being engaged in the school community is critical to the social and emotional development in many lives, but especially for our “newcomer” students. We know that early engagement builds essential knowledge and skills that form the foundation for future academic and career success. Therefore, the lack of attendance created by this barrier carries the strong potential of adverse impact on these students’ success and achievement in school. This administration understands the importance of the immunization program when considering public health. However, the administration also believes that the current timeline does not take into property account the realities faced by our very special student and family population and their needs. We hope giving families additional time to access vaccines will help children to stay and successfully ***complete*** school.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George’s County Executive **SUPPORTS HB 608** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

FWA HB 608

Uploaded by: Kym Taylor

Position: FWA

KYM TAYLOR
Legislative District 23
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees

Family and Juvenile Law

Public Safety



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 203
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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Kym.Taylor@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB0608: Primary and Secondary Education - Student Immunization - Temporary Admission Period

Good Afternoon, Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

For the record, I am Delegate Kym Taylor, representing Prince George's County, District 23.

As this committee is aware, Foundation Aid funding for our schools is based upon enrollment of qualified students. Qualified students are those that have received age-appropriate immunizations by a certain date. A student without proof of immunization is considered *temporarily enrolled* until the 20th day after the first day of school.

In our local school systems thousands of students – most due to extenuating circumstances – submit immunization records after the 20th day and are, therefore, never counted in the Foundation Aid funding enrollment record.

HB608 proposes that the temporary enrollment date be extended to 60 days in order to optimize the *Target Per-Pupil Foundation Aid that provides each local school system the basic resources necessary to ensure student success.*

Sensitive to the concerns shared by the Department of Health and MSEA, HB608 will be amended to delete Section D on page 3:

(D) A PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A TEMPORARILY ADMITTED STUDENT SHALL PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF THE STUDENT'S REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS ON THE NEXT SCHOOL DAY FOLLOWING THE STUDENT'S APPOINTMENT WITH A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Deleting the section above will bring the bill in compliance with Maryland Department of Health Regulations Subtitle 6; Chapter 10.06.04.06, Section D:

D. A preschool or school, public or private, shall exclude from school a student who has been temporarily admitted or retained on the next school day following the appointment date if the student's parent or guardian fails to provide evidence of required immunizations.

Note: HB608 may also be amended to change the proposed temporary enrollment extension to 45 days in lieu of 60 days.

Submitted by,

Delegate Kym Taylor

HB 608 - W&M - PHPA - LOO.docx (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Meghan Lynch

Position: UNF



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 12, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: House Bill 608 – Primary and Secondary Education – Student Immunization –
Temporary Admission Period – Letter of Opposition**

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of Opposition for House Bill (HB) 608 – Primary and Secondary Education – Student Immunization – Temporary Admission Period. HB 608 grants a temporary admission period of 60 calendar days for students without proof of required immunizations.

HB 608 will unnecessarily prolong the time children without school-required immunizations remain unvaccinated, increasing the risk for acquiring a vaccine-preventable disease and the likelihood of ongoing transmission in the school setting. This would endanger vulnerable children and staff who cannot be vaccinated due to medical contraindications, putting them at a greater risk for infection.

Pursuant to Health—General (HG) 7-403, the Department adopted Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.06.04 allowing the temporary admission of students without required immunizations for up to 20 calendar days. The Department also considers requests for extensions for warranted circumstances (e.g., a temporary shortage of a particular vaccine). Over the last ten years, there have been three requests to extend the deadline for school exclusion: in 2014 due to new middle school vaccine requirements; in 2021 due to the COVID pandemic; and in 2024 due to a vaccine ordering issue. Historically, compliance with school vaccination requirements is high – more than 98 percent. The authority granted to adopt regulations, as opposed to establishing a defined period in statute, allows the Department to adapt to evolving public health concerns. Implementing a rigid timeline through statute would hinder timely, evidence-based responses to emerging issues. Further, the Department adds that local health departments have reported that students are able to schedule their vaccination appointments and receive their required vaccines within the 20 day extension period COMAR allows.

The Department believes the current regulatory approach, providing families with 20 days to obtain vaccinations or acquire documentation of prior vaccination, is both appropriate and

necessary to maintain Maryland's high childhood immunization rates and protect Maryland children from vaccine preventable diseases.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

HB 608 - W&M- MACHO - LOC .docx.pdf

Uploaded by: State of Maryland (MD)

Position: UNF



**2025 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL: HB 608 – Primary and Secondary Education – Student Immunization – Temporary Admission Period
COMMITTEE: House - Ways and Means Committee
POSITION: Letter of Concern
BILL ANALYSIS: HB 608 would require each county board of education to grant certain students temporary admission to schools for a specified time frame if the parent or guardian is unable to provide proof of immunization under certain circumstances; and generally relating to immunization requirements for public school students.

POSITION RATIONALE: The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) provides a Letter of Concern regarding HB 608. Childhood immunization is a critical defense against the resurgence of vaccine-preventable diseases. MACHO recognizes the importance of ensuring school access for all students, particularly those facing barriers to healthcare. However, the proposed extension of the grace period from the current 20 days to 60 days would increase the risk of disease transmission in communities. School immunization is readily available and accessible to all community members through our local public health departments (LHDs).

The proposed extension would leave children, teachers, and families vulnerable to outbreaks of diseases such as measles, pertussis (whooping cough), and varicella (chickenpox), which spread rapidly in school settings. These diseases pose severe risks to unvaccinated and immunocompromised individuals, including infants and those undergoing medical treatments that suppress immunity. A single case of measles, which is highly contagious, can trigger an outbreak requiring extensive public health interventions, school closures, and costly contact tracing efforts.

All LHDs report ample appointment availability to meet school system needs. Maryland's 20-day grace period provides sufficient time for families to obtain required vaccinations. LHDs and school health services work collaboratively to ensure that children receive vaccinations promptly, even in the most vulnerable communities. LHDs and school-based health clinics offer extensive immunization services, conduct outreach to families, and work with providers to remove barriers to access. Expansion of the grace period undermines these efforts, which could delay vaccination further and increase non-compliance.

Prolonged delays in vaccination can lead to disruptions in education. An outbreak could force schools to exclude unvaccinated students for extended periods, disproportionately impacting educational access for the very students the bill seeks to support. Maryland has made significant progress in maintaining high immunization rates among school-aged children, and HB 608 threatens to reverse these gains.

LHDs and students would benefit from strengthening immunization programs through enhanced school-based vaccination programs, increased funding for public health outreach, and targeted assistance for families experiencing barriers to compliance. MACHO would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively on policies that balance equitable school access with Maryland's strong commitment to public health.

For the reasons outlined above, MACHO submits this LOC for HB 608. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at rmaiora1@jhu.edu or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*

HB608 - LOI.pdf

Uploaded by: Samantha Zwerling

Position: INFO

Letter of Information
House Bill 608
Primary and Secondary Education – Student Immunization – Temporary
Admission Period
House Ways and Means Committee
February 12, 2025

Samantha Zwerling
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association offers this informational testimony on HB 608, which would require each County Board to temporarily admit a student to school if the student's parent or guardian cannot provide proof of immunization. Under this legislation, a parent or guardian of a student granted temporary admission would be required to provide evidence of the student's appointment with a health professional or local health department to receive a required immunization, reconstruct a lost record, or acquire evidence of age-appropriate immunity on a form provided by the Maryland Department of Health. The date of a student's appointment with a health professional or local health department may not exceed 60 calendar days from the date the student is granted temporary admission. A parent or guardian of a temporarily admitted student would be required to provide evidence of a student's required immunizations on the next school day following the student's appointment with a health professional or local health department.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA believes that required immunizations are essential to the creation of sustainable and healthy learning environments for students and education employees. MSEA also believes admission of non-immunized students to any

school by any competent authority presents a potential threat to both students and education employees.

As drafted, this legislation would not mirror existing regulation established in COMAR 10.06.04.06 that excludes a student from school who has been temporarily admitted or retained on the next school day following the appointment date if the student's parent or guardian fails to provide evidence of required immunizations.

Maryland State Law (COMAR 10.06.04.03) currently requires all students enrolled in prekindergarten through Grade 12 to receive age-appropriate immunizations and dictates that a school must have proof of immunizations before allowing a student to begin school. If evidence of the required vaccines was not provided, the student would be excluded from school. Students without the required documentation are temporarily admitted and given twenty (20) calendar days from the date of admission to provide evidence of immunization compliance, per COMAR 10.06.04.06.

To be temporarily admitted to or retained in a preschool or school, the student's parent or guardian is required to present evidence of the student's appointment with a health care provider. The date of the appointment may not be later than twenty (20) calendar days following the date the student was temporarily admitted or retained. The student will be excluded from school the next day following the appointment date if the parent fails to provide evidence of required immunizations.

When evaluating this legislation, the Committee should review existing regulation under COMAR 10.06.04 on granting temporary admission to students, and the timeframe a parent or guardian must provide evidence of required immunizations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests that schools and providers should work to ensure that students are vaccinated before school entry, such as during the enrollment process, which is often several months before school starts.¹

1

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7245a2.htm#:~:text=This%20kindergarten%20class%20became%20age,20reduced%20access%20to%20vaccination%20appointments.>

Non-immunized students can significantly affect schools by increasing the risk of outbreaks of preventable diseases, leading to potential disruptions in learning due to student absences from illness, potential school closures, and increased strain on school healthcare systems, all while jeopardizing the health of both students and staff due to the potential spread of contagious diseases within the school community.

MSEA understands that this legislation is intended to provide additional time for student immunization; however, we are concerned with the extension of the timeframe and how this legislation would differ from current regulation.