



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

15 West Gude Drive ♦ Suite 100 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: Senate Bill 263

TITLE: Education - Dependent Children of Active Service Members - Advance Enrollment Procedures

DATE: February 27, 2026

POSITION: Support with Amendments

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

CONTACT: Patricia Ursprung, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports Senate Bill 263 with amendments.

This bill requires local education agencies (LEAs) to permit active duty members to initiate the enrollment process for their dependent child once the service member receives orders that they will be stationed in Maryland. Enrollment must be accomplished remotely and include the ability to provide information about the student's current eligibility for special education or Section 504 services, if applicable.

This bill will allow active duty service members additional flexibility around school enrollment when relocation is needed as a function of their job. This flexibility will assist families that are making all of the arrangements needed to relocate, sometimes on short notice. Additionally, it guarantees a student cannot be transferred during the school year, once the school of assignment is determined, because the family no longer meets the residency requirements for that particular school. This bill will help prevent or minimize an interruption in educational services for children who will most certainly benefit from educational stability.

While the Board supports the bill, it suggests that language be added to section (b)(4)(ii) to clarify that, although educational services shall be provide to the child "without undue delay," no services are required until the child begins physically attending their assigned school. This applies to all educational services, but especially services that would be provided pursuant to an Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Plan. Further, the Board recommends additional language that confirms that any special education services will subject to, and in compliance with, applicable laws.

The Board supports Senate Bill 263 with the recommended amendments.