
TO : Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

BILL: House Bill (HB) 222 – Educational Institutions – Opioid Overdose-Reversing Medications – Policy Requirements

DATE: April 1, 2026

POSITION: Support

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) provides this Letter of Support regarding House Bill (HB) 222 – Educational Institutions – Opioid Overdose-Reversing Medications – Policy Requirements.

HB 222 represents a proactive and critical step toward addressing the opioid crisis in Maryland by expanding access to life-saving interventions within educational settings. By requiring public schools to store naloxone and authorizing its possession and use by high school students, staff, and other individuals lawfully present, the bill strengthens schools' ability to respond swiftly and effectively to opioid overdose emergencies. The inclusion of liability protections for individuals who act in good faith further supports timely intervention and helps reduce hesitation in emergency situations, ultimately increasing the likelihood of saving lives.

HB 222 promotes safer learning environments and empowers school communities with practical tools to combat opioid overdoses. These measures align Maryland with nationally recognized best practices recommended by leading public health organizations and reinforce the State's commitment to student health, safety, and well-being.

The [Maryland Comprehensive Health Education Framework](#), in alignment with the national health education standards and written by a diverse group of content experts, includes research-based, age-appropriate topics, and indicators for students to learn about heroin and opioid addiction and prevention, including information relating to the lethal effect of fentanyl.

The State Board and MSDE appreciate the bill sponsor for their leadership in advancing this important legislation and for the thoughtful amendments that have strengthened and clarified its implementation, including refining the provision to allow high school students who have received appropriate training to carry naloxone. The Department recognizes the well-established safety and effectiveness of naloxone and supports approaches that ensure any opioid overdose-reversing medications used in schools are grounded in similarly strong evidence. MSDE looks forward to continued partnership in supporting policies that protect student health and safety.

The State Board and the Department request that the committee consider this information as it deliberates **HB 222**. Please contact Laurel Cratsley, Interim Executive Director of Government Affairs, at laurel.cratsley@maryland.gov for any additional information.