
TO: House Judiciary Committee

BILL: Senate Bill (SB) 810 – Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement

DATE: April 1, 2026

POSITION: Support

The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) and State Department of Education (MSDE) extend their support for Senate Bill (SB) 810 – Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement.

As amended, SB810 explicitly prohibits public school personnel, including school resource officers (SRO), school security employees, and other law enforcement officers, as well as teachers, principals, and school counselors, from engaging in any federal immigration investigation or enforcement activities under §287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Additionally, these personnel are barred from producing or sharing student educational records, employee personnel records, or any other information about students, school employees, or their families for immigration enforcement purposes.

SB810 clarifies the term “judicial officer” to more accurately include SROs and other officers with the status of a police officer. The definition of “sensitive location” now includes a designated school vehicle or bus stop, and locations distributing food to individuals in need. SB810 also requires that public school personnel notify the local superintendent or the superintendent’s designee and legal counsel immediately if presented with a judicial warrant regarding immigration enforcement.

MSDE supports the original bill language, as well as the amendments that expand sensitive locations and mandate notification of superintendents when an immigration enforcement action occurs. Further, MSDE is also supportive of addressing additional concerns raised during the Senate hearing for the bill, that the applicable staff prohibited from sharing information may not be defined broadly enough, and that certain critical locations on school grounds may not be fully encompassed in the proposed amendments. To ensure clarity, consistency, and comprehensive protections for students, MSDE strongly recommends expanding the definition of “sensitive location” to explicitly include the entirety of a school zone, including all property and facilities owned, leased, used, or operated by or on behalf of local school systems and publicly funded education providers. A clear, inclusive definition will reduce ambiguity for enforcement, prevent gaps in coverage, and better safeguard students across all settings in which they learn and participate.

By prohibiting all public school employees and school security personnel from engaging in immigration investigations or sharing sensitive student and employee information for immigration purposes, SB810 ensures that schools remain places of learning rather than enforcement. It protects privacy rights and aligns with federal and state laws designed to safeguard personal information. Most importantly, it helps maintain a welcoming environment where all students and school staff, regardless of immigration status, can focus on education without fear.

SROs in Maryland are law enforcement officers assigned to schools through formal agreements between local law enforcement agencies and local education agencies (LEAs). Their primary role is to maintain a safe and secure learning environment, prevent crime, and build positive relationships with students, staff, and families. SROs serve alongside other public school staff as mentors and educators, helping students understand legal and safety issues while fostering trust between schools and the broader community.

By being present in schools, SROs and school security personnel provide immediate response to emergencies, reduce incidents of violence or illegal activity, and support school administrators in developing safety plans and conducting drills. They also act as a bridge between families and law enforcement to promote understanding and collaboration. When these personnel are asked to participate in federal immigration enforcement, that trust can be severely compromised. Families may fear sending their children to school, and students could feel unsafe or targeted, which undermines both educational access and emotional well-being.

The State Board and MSDE respectfully request consideration of these comments as **SB810** is discussed and deliberated. Please contact Laurel Cratsley, Interim Executive Director of Government Affairs, at laurel.cratsley@maryland.gov, if you would like any additional information.