

# EDUCATION ADVOCACY COALITION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

## HOUSE BILL 311: PUBLIC SCHOOLS—INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES—ACCESSIBILITY AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

February 11, 2026

### POSITION: SUPPORT

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC) is a coalition of nearly 50 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland. The EAC supports House Bill 311, which would require each school system to identify and report issues of accessibility that could impede evacuation or emergency response for individuals with disabilities in public school buildings. The report would be shared with the Maryland Center for School Safety in order to develop a plan with the Center to address accessibility and emergency planning issues.

House Bill 311 has the laudable purpose of bringing school accessibility issues and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act to the fore. Although this bill does not require the jurisdiction or local school system to make accessibility modifications to its schools, it expands the required safety review to consider accessibility.

Schools are hubs of activity for students, families, staff, and community members. It is important for the Maryland Center for School Safety to know if a school is accessible and safe in times of necessary evacuation or emergency response.

For these reasons, the EAC supports House Bill 311.

Contact Leslie Seid Margolis, [lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org](mailto:lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org) or 443-692-2505.

Respectfully submitted,

Selene Almazan, Attorney  
Ellen Callegary, Attorney (Retired)  
Melanie Carlos, Partnership for Extraordinary Minds (xMinds)  
Stephanie Carr, SL Carr Education Consultants  
Rich Cerulo, Parent and Advocate  
Jennifer Engel Fisher, JEF Consultants  
Beth Ann Hancock, Charting the Course  
Leilani Hardy, Maryland Coalition of Families  
Morgan Durand Horvath, Abilities Network  
Ande Kolp, The Arc Maryland  
Mallory Legg, Project HEAL at Kennedy Kreiger Institute  
Rachel London, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Leslie Seid Margolis, Disability Rights Maryland

Monica Martinez, Martinez Advocacy

Beth Nolan, Education Team Allies

Ellen O'Neill, Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center

Ronza Othman, National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

Kate Rabb, The Law Offices of Joseph & Rabb

Rebecca Rienzi, Pathfinders for Autism

Ronnetta Stanely, Loud Voices Together Educational Advocacy Group

Wayne Steedman, The Steedman Law Group