

EDUCATION ADVOCACY COALITION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 73 PUBLIC SCHOOLS—WATER SAFETY AND SWIMMING COURSE—ESTABLISHED

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC), a coalition of nearly 50 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland, supports House Bill 73, which would require each county school board to establish standards for a course on water safety and swimming for students kindergarten through grade 8, and would require implementation by school systems for all students, including students with disabilities.

The importance of House Bill 73 is undisputed; drowning is a leading cause of death in all children (American Red Cross). The EAC appreciates that House Bill 73 would require the needed reasonable accommodations be provided to students with disabilities to ensure their full participation in the course.

The EAC is pleased to support House Bill 73.

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Respectfully submitted,

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