



Date: February 11, 2026

Bill Number/Title: HB 438 - Adult Prison School Board Model
Development Committee

Committee: House Ways and Means Committee

Board Position: Favorable

The Juvenile Services Education Board respectfully requests a favorable report to House Bill 438.

In 2021, the Maryland General Assembly passed SB 497/CH 147, which created the Juvenile Services Education Board and Program (JSEP). This law transferred the responsibility for educating youth in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to the newly established, independent JSEP Board. The JSEP Board works collaboratively with the JSEP Superintendent to ensure operational and budget alignment with JSEP's mission, vision, and priorities.

Since the creation of the JSEP Board, students have benefited from the dedicated governance and oversight structure of the educational program. The Board appreciates the partnership with DJS in educating students within DJS detention and placement facilities, and the additional focus on education allows the JSEP Board, Superintendent, and organization staff to align MSDE curriculum, responsive educational practices, and individualized learning plans. Students earn credits just as they would in their schools of origin towards high school graduation requirements and post-secondary goals.

The Board supports HB 438's proposal to convene a stakeholder workgroup to examine educational continuity and coordination across juvenile and adult correctional settings. JSEP educates students who may transition to adult corrections, and a clearer, more consistent approach to continuity of educational services would support their academic progress. The Board values the bill's structured, time-limited, and data-informed approach to developing actionable recommendations and clarifying system roles and responsibilities.

For these reasons, the Board supports House Bill 438 and respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report.

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