



March 9, 2026

Bill: HB 1368 - Special Education - Individualized Education Program - Notification of Missed Services (Shifra's Act)

Position: Oppose

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association represents speech language pathologists and audiologists across Maryland. Collectively, we elevate and engage members to strive for excellence in serving those impacted by communication and related disorders through advocacy, equity, education, interprofessional collaboration, and leadership development.

We are writing in **opposition of HB 1368** which would require school teams to notify if special education or related services specified in an IEP are missed, incomplete or interrupted.

The proposed bill would not only be a significant administrative burden to the special educators and related service providers but also a duplicative process to what already exists within Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA).¹ IDEA requires school districts to provide all services outlined in a student's Individual Education Program (IEP). Goals are developed based on student's needs with an initiation date and duration of services finalized at the meeting. Typically these plans are developed for 1 year.

School districts are responsible for documenting sessions and tracking any missed sessions. Per the MSDE Technical Assistance Bulletin #19-03, if there are missed services, the school team is responsible for determining the impact of missed services on the student's progress towards their annual IEP goal. Determining if missed services resulted in a denial of the students' Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) is completed on a case-by-case basis.² There are already processes to document the discussion of missed services as part of the current IEP process during progress notes and annual review meetings.

This bill would require the IEP school team to complete additional paperwork such as notices with explanations and steps the team will take. This could also lead to additional meetings. The American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) is the professional organization for licensed SLPs and Audiologists. Based on a 2024 ASHA School Survey, "Large amount of paperwork ranked as the greatest challenge in every type of facility."³

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Educators and related services providers such as SLPs and Educational Audiologists in the schools are all looking out for our students' best interest. HB 1368 would place a significant and duplicative administrative burden on providers and take their valuable time during the school day away from the students we serve. To address missed or disrupted IEP services and supports, state and local jurisdictions should continue to prioritize competitive pay and salary supplements for SLPs and Audiologists instead of additional paperwork burdens. **MSHA is in opposition of HB 1368.**

Thank you for your consideration



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MSHA President

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1. U.S. Department of Education. (2025, August 6). *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*.
<https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/individuals-disabilities/idea>
 2. Maryland State Department of Education. (2019, August). *Missed IEP services* (Technical Assistance Bulletin #19-03).
<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Special-Ed/TAB/19-03-MissedServicesGuidance.pdf>
 3. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2024). *2024 Schools Survey report: SLP workforce and work conditions*.
<https://www.asha.org/siteassets/surveys/2024-schools-survey-slp-workforce.pdf>

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