

# **EDUCATION ADVOCACY COALITION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

## **House Bill 1368 - Special Education - Individualized Education Program - Notification of Missed Services (Shifra's Act)**

March 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 1368.

House Bill 1368 would require public schools to give parents a written notice including an explanation when certain special education or related services specified in a student's individualized education program (IEP) are missed, incomplete, or interrupted. HB 1368 would also require timely notice to parents and guidance on requesting an IEP meeting to address their child's missed services.

IEP services play a critical role in supporting students with disabilities. These services are specifically designed to meet each child's unique needs whether academic, behavioral, social-emotional, communication-based, or related to functional skills. For many students, consistent delivery of these services is essential for developing foundational skills, accessing academic content, and making meaningful progress. When these supports are interrupted, students may lose skills, fall behind their classmates, or experience increased frustration and disengagement.

Regular and reliable service delivery is not simply helpful, it is necessary to ensure students with disabilities can learn, participate, and thrive in school. When services are included in the IEP, the student is legally entitled to them. Each service is part of the support necessary for the child to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE). A parent cannot advocate for the services to which their child is entitled if they are not informed of the services that were missed, incomplete, or interrupted. Without this information, families cannot request compensatory education services.

Furthermore, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) gives parents the right to participate meaningfully in decisions about their child's educational program. Meaningful participation requires accurate and timely information. If schools do not notify families when services are missed, parents are unable to assess whether their child's needs are being met or whether additional supports are necessary. Prompt notification

allows parents and school teams to respond quickly to address any gaps caused by missed services.

HB 1368 strengthens the protections that ensure students with disabilities receive a FAPE. Timely, transparent communication empowers parents, supports accountability, and helps students receive the services they need to make meaningful educational progress.

For these reasons, the EAC supports HB 1368.

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Respectfully submitted,

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