

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

<b>Bill:</b>	House Bill 311	<b>Date:</b>	February 9, 2026
<b>Title:</b>	Public Schools - Individuals with Disabilities - Accessibility and Emergency Planning	<b>Committee:</b>	Ways and Means
<b>Position:</b>	Letter of Information	<b>Contact:</b>	Kimberly Buckheit <a href="mailto:kim.buckheit1@maryland.gov">kim.buckheit1@maryland.gov</a> 443-902-0622

On behalf of the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of information for House Bill 311.

Local school systems conduct school safety evaluations every two years and submit an aggregated summary of evaluation findings to MCSS according to Ed. Art. §7-1510(a)-(b) and [Code of Maryland Article 14.40.06.02](#). House Bill 311 requires locals to include in the existing safety evaluation for each school considerations for “associated issues of accessibility for individuals with disabilities”.

Additionally, Ed. Art. §7-1510 (f)(1) and [Code of Md. Art. 14.40.06.02](#) requires local school systems to submit to MCSS emergency summary information on the performance of emergency drills and information on real-world emergency responses by August 1st of each year. The information required by House Bill 311, “instances in which a public school facility became inaccessible for a student with a disability in a manner that could impede evacuation or an emergency response”, will become part of the annual emergency summary.

To facilitate these requirements, MCSS is prepared to update its existing data collection tools and procedures. Implementing HB 311 will necessitate cross-departmental coordination locally between school security, facilities management, and special education staff. This collaboration will be essential to accurately identify physical barriers, and report specific incidents where facility access may have compromised the safety of students with disabilities during an emergency.

Thank you again for taking the time to consider the information shared above when making decisions on House Bill 311.

