

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

Bill:	Senate Bill 507	Date:	April 1, 2026
Title:	Public Schools - Individuals with Disabilities - Accessibility and Emergency Planning	Committee:	Ways and Means
Position:	Favorable	Contact:	Kimberly Buckheit kim.buckheit1@maryland.gov 443-902-0622

On behalf of the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for Senate Bill 507.

In accordance with Md. Code Ed. Art. §7-1510(a)-(b) and [COMAR 14.40.06.02](#), local school systems conduct school safety evaluations every two years and submit an aggregated summary of evaluation findings to MCSS. Senate Bill 507 requires local school system to incorporate "associated issues of accessibility for individuals with disabilities" into the existing safety evaluations conducted for each school.

Additionally, Md. Code Ed. Art. §7-1510 (f)(1) and [COMAR 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. Senate Bill 507 requires local school systems to include "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" into their annual emergency summary report.

To facilitate these new requirements, MCSS is prepared to update its existing data collection tools and procedures. Implementing Senate Bill 507 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.



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Finally, the Maryland Public Information Act (PIA) protects sensitive school safety data, including emergency plans and physical vulnerabilities that could be exploited if disclosed. Our office will apply the same rigorous standards to these new data elements as we do to our existing datasets.

To assist the legislature in identifying priorities, our office will include de-identified, statewide aggregate data in our annual reports. This approach ensures necessary oversight without exposing specific weaknesses at individual schools. Any requests for granular data will be managed through our formal PIA process, where each request will undergo executive and legal review to ensure disclosure does not jeopardize the safety of our schools, students, or staff.

Thank you again for taking the time to consider the information shared above when making decisions on Senate Bill 507.

