



Maryland Education Coalition

INSPIRES ACTION & POSITIVE CHANGE SO MARYLAND'S STUDENTS SUCCEED

Rick Tyler, Jr., Chair

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Date: February 12, 2021
COMMITTEE: Ways and Mean
BILL: [HB0724](#)

TITLE: Special Education - Education and Vocational Services - Prolonged School Closure
POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) is a coalition of 20 statewide organizations and several individuals who represent parents, civil rights, & special student population groups. For over 40 years, MEC has advocated for adequate, equitable resources and systematic accountability for the estimated 900,000 public school students in Maryland’s public schools regardless of their academic, cultural, economic, geographic, racial, or other demographic status. This includes students with disabilities, lower income, limited English, homeless, foster care, Gifted & Talented students, and students of color.

MEC joins the members of the Education Advocacy Coalition For Students with Disabilities (EAC) and others who support of House Bill 724- Special Education - Education and Vocational Services - Prolonged School Closure. This bill would allow transition-age students with disabilities an extension of special education services to address learning loss and related services that were delayed due to extended closures because of the pandemic, the related safety and health concerns.

This legislation, if passed, would also enable older students with disabilities the opportunity to make up for the significant learning loss they have sustained. In addition, HB 725 would extend the time allowed for parents/guardians to address future needs during their transition period. This could allow students to have a more successful opportunity to become more independent, employable, arrange housing and a better quality of life.

Therefore, MEC supports HB 727-2021.

Respectfully yours,
Rick Tyler, Jr. Chair

MEMBERS- Advocates for Children and Youth, American Civil Liberties Union of MD, Arts Education in Maryland Schools, Arts Every Day, Attendance Works, CASA, Decoding Dyslexia of MD, Disability Rights Maryland, League of Women Voters of MD, Let Them See Clearly, Right to Read Maryland, Maryland PTA, Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, Maryland Coalition for Gifted & Talented Ed, MSC-NAACP, Maryland Out of School Time Network, Maryland School Psychologists' Association, Parent Advocacy Consortium, Public Justice Center,

