

BILL: House Bill 950
TITLE: State Department of Education - School Discipline - Data Collection
DATE: February 28, 2019
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state's local boards of education.

First, local boards oppose this bill because it would mandate including student discipline information neither required nor intended to be included in the State's annual school performance report card. However, this information is certainly reported, compiled and made publicly available in other formats and reports.

According to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the purpose of the State Report Card is academics.

“The Maryland accountability system includes multiple ways to describe student and school performance. The major components of the accountability system are called “indicators.” The indicators are: Academic Achievement, Academic Progress, Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency, and School Quality and Student Success at the Elementary and Middle School Levels; Academic Achievement, Graduation Rate, Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency, Readiness for Postsecondary Success, and School Quality and Student Success at the High School Level.

Each school's results on the Maryland accountability system are compiled and reported on the Maryland Report Card website. The individual School Report Cards are designed so parents, educators, stakeholders, and others can easily understand how their schools are performing, just as traditional report cards help parents understand how their students are performing academically in their classes and in other important ways.” (Maryland School Report Card User's Guide, 2018)

Second, this bill would also lower the risk ratio used to identify an individual school as having a disproportionately high suspension rate. MABE firmly believes that such a change, if it is to be made, should be the subject of the deliberations and decision making of the State Board of Education.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 950.