

# SENATE BILL 710

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By: **Senator Conway**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2017

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Children With Disabilities – Individualized Education Program**  
3 **Process – Parental Consent**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring an individualized education program team to obtain written  
5 consent from the parent of a child with a disability if the team proposes certain  
6 actions regarding the individualized education program of the child; requiring an  
7 individualized education program team, under certain circumstances, to send a  
8 parent certain written notice within a certain time frame that informs the parent of  
9 certain rights to consent or refuse to consent to certain actions; authorizing an  
10 individualized education program team to implement a certain action regarding an  
11 individualized education program if a parent does not provide certain written  
12 consent or a written refusal to consent to a certain action within a certain time frame;  
13 authorizing an individualized education program team to use certain dispute  
14 resolution options to resolve a certain matter under certain circumstances; and  
15 generally relating to parental consent in the individualized education program  
16 process.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article – Education  
19 Section 8–405  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – Education**

25 8–405.

26 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (2) “Accessible copy” includes a copy of a document provided to an  
2 individual in a format as defined in § 8–408 of this subtitle.

3           (3) “Extenuating circumstance” means:

4           (i) A death in the family;

5           (ii) A personal emergency;

6           (iii) A natural disaster; or

7           (iv) Any other similar situation defined by the Department.

8           (4) “Individualized education program” and “individualized family service  
9 plan” have the same meaning as provided in the federal Individuals with Disabilities  
10 Education Act.

11           (b) (1) When a team of qualified professionals and the parents meet for the  
12 purpose of discussing the identification, evaluation, educational program, or the provision  
13 of a free appropriate public education of a child with a disability:

14           (i) The parents of the child shall be afforded the opportunity to  
15 participate and shall be provided reasonable notice in advance of the meeting; and

16           (ii) Reasonable notice shall be at least 10 calendar days in advance  
17 of the meeting, unless an expedited meeting is being conducted to:

18                           1. Address disciplinary issues;

19                           2. Determine the placement of the child with a disability not  
20 currently receiving educational services; or

21                           3. Meet other urgent needs of a child with a disability to  
22 ensure the provision of a free appropriate public education.

23           (2) (i) 1. At the initial evaluation meeting, the parents of the child  
24 shall be provided:

25                           A. In plain language, a verbal and written explanation of the  
26 parents’ rights and responsibilities in the individualized education program process and a  
27 program procedural safeguards notice; and

28                           B. Written information that the parents may use to contact  
29 early intervention and special education family support services staff members within the  
30 local school system and a brief description of the services provided by the staff members.

1                   2.     If a parent's native language is not English, the  
2 information in subparagraph 1B of this subparagraph shall be provided to the parent  
3 in the parent's native language.

4                   (ii)    The parents may request the information provided under  
5 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph at any subsequent meeting.

6                   (iii)   If a child who has an individualized education program  
7 developed in another school system moves into a different local school system, that local  
8 school system shall provide the information required under subparagraph (i)1B of this  
9 paragraph at the time of the first written communication with the parents regarding the  
10 child's individualized education program or special education services.

11                  (iv)    A local school system shall publish information that a parent  
12 may use to contact early intervention and special education family support services staff  
13 members within the local school system and a brief description of the services provided by  
14 the staff members in a prominent place on the section of its Web site relating to special  
15 education services.

16                  (3)     Failure to provide the information required under paragraph (2)(i)1B of  
17 this subsection does not constitute grounds for a due process complaint under § 8–413 of  
18 this subtitle.

19                  (4)     (i)     If, during an individualized education program team meeting, a  
20 parent disagrees with the child's individualized education program or the special education  
21 services provided to the child, the individualized education program team shall provide the  
22 parent with, in plain language:

23                   1.     An oral and a written explanation of the parent's right to  
24 request mediation in accordance with § 8–413 of this subtitle;

25                   2.     Contact information, including a telephone number that a  
26 parent may use to receive more information about the mediation process; and

27                   3.     Information regarding pro bono representation and other  
28 free or low-cost legal and related services available in the area.

29                  (ii)    A parent may request the information provided under  
30 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph at any individualized education program team meeting.

31                  (5)     (i)     If the native language spoken by a parent who requests  
32 information under paragraph (4) of this subsection is spoken by more than 1% of the  
33 student population in the local school system, the parent may request that the information  
34 be translated into the parent's native language.

1 (ii) If a parent makes a request under subparagraph (i) of this  
2 paragraph, the individualized education program team shall provide the parent with the  
3 translated document within 30 days after the date of the request.

4 (c) The individualized education program team shall determine, on at least an  
5 annual basis, whether the child requires extended year services in order to ensure that the  
6 child is not deprived of a free appropriate public education by virtue of the normal break in  
7 the regular school year.

8 (d) (1) (i) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, and  
9 subject to subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) of this paragraph, at least 5 business days before a  
10 scheduled meeting of the individualized education program team or other multidisciplinary  
11 education team for any purpose for a child with a disability, appropriate school personnel  
12 shall provide the parents of the child with an accessible copy of each assessment, report,  
13 data chart, draft individualized education program, or other document that either team  
14 plans to discuss at the meeting.

15 (ii) Subject to subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, an assessment,  
16 report, data chart, or other document prepared by a school psychologist or other medical  
17 professional that either team plans to discuss at the meeting may be provided to the parents  
18 of the child orally and in writing prior to the meeting.

19 (iii) The parents of a child may notify appropriate school personnel  
20 that they do not want to receive the documents required to be provided under subparagraph  
21 (i) of this paragraph.

22 (2) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, appropriate  
23 school personnel are not required to comply with paragraph (1) of this subsection in the  
24 event of an extenuating circumstance.

25 (ii) In the event of an extenuating circumstance, appropriate school  
26 personnel who fail to comply with paragraph (1) of this subsection shall document the  
27 extenuating circumstance and communicate that information to the parents of the child.

28 (e) (1) Not later than 5 business days after a scheduled meeting of the  
29 individualized education program team or other multidisciplinary team for a child with a  
30 disability, appropriate school personnel shall provide the parents of the child with a copy  
31 of the completed individualized education program.

32 (2) If the individualized education program has not been completed by the  
33 5th business day after the meeting, the parents shall be provided with the draft copy of the  
34 individualized education program.

35 (3) The completed or draft individualized education program shall be  
36 provided to the parents in an accessible format.

1           (4) (i) If the native language spoken by the parents of a child with a  
2 completed individualized education program or a completed individualized family service  
3 plan is spoken by more than 1 percent of the student population in the local school system,  
4 the parents may request the document to be translated into the parents' native language.

5           (ii) If a parent makes a request under subparagraph (i) of this  
6 paragraph, appropriate school personnel shall provide the parents with the translated  
7 document within 30 days after the date of the request.

8           **(F) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,  
9 AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM TEAM SHALL OBTAIN WRITTEN CONSENT  
10 FROM A PARENT IF THE TEAM PROPOSES TO:**

11           **(I) ENROLL THE CHILD IN AN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION  
12 PROGRAM THAT DOES NOT ISSUE OR PROVIDE CREDITS TOWARD A MARYLAND HIGH  
13 SCHOOL DIPLOMA;**

14           **(II) IDENTIFY THE CHILD FOR THE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION  
15 ASSESSMENT ALIGNED WITH THE STATE'S ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM;**

16           **(III) INCLUDE RESTRAINT OR SECLUSION IN THE  
17 INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM TO ADDRESS THE CHILD'S BEHAVIOR AS  
18 DESCRIBED IN COMAR 13A.08.04.05; OR**

19           **(IV) INITIATE A CHANGE IN THE CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL  
20 PLACEMENT.**

21           **(2) IF THE PARENT DOES NOT PROVIDE WRITTEN CONSENT TO AN  
22 ACTION PROPOSED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION AT THE  
23 INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM TEAM MEETING, THE INDIVIDUALIZED  
24 EDUCATION PROGRAM TEAM SHALL SEND THE PARENT WRITTEN NOTICE NO LATER  
25 THAN 5 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM TEAM  
26 MEETING THAT INFORMS THE PARENT THAT:**

27           **(I) THE PARENT HAS THE RIGHT TO EITHER CONSENT TO OR  
28 REFUSE TO CONSENT TO AN ACTION PROPOSED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
29 SUBSECTION; AND**

30           **(II) IF THE PARENT DOES NOT PROVIDE WRITTEN CONSENT OR  
31 A WRITTEN REFUSAL TO CONSENT TO AN ACTION PROPOSED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)  
32 OF THIS SUBSECTION WITHIN 15 BUSINESS DAYS OF THE INDIVIDUALIZED  
33 EDUCATION PROGRAM TEAM MEETING, THE INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM  
34 TEAM MAY IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED ACTION.**

1           **(3) IF THE PARENT REFUSES TO CONSENT TO THE ACTION PROPOSED,**  
2 **THE INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM TEAM MAY USE THE DISPUTE**  
3 **RESOLUTION OPTIONS LISTED IN § 8-413 OF THIS SUBTITLE TO RESOLVE THE**  
4 **MATTER.**

5           **[(f)] (G)** To fulfill the purposes of this section, school personnel may provide the  
6 documents required under this section through:

- 7           (1) Electronic delivery;
- 8           (2) Home delivery with the student; or
- 9           (3) Any other reasonable and legal method of delivery.

10           **[(g)] (H)** Failure to comply with this section does not constitute a substantive  
11 violation of the requirement to provide a student with a free appropriate public education.

12           **[(h)] (I)** The Department shall adopt:

- 13           (1) Regulations that define what information should be provided in the  
14 verbal and written explanations of the parents' rights and responsibilities in the  
15 individualized education program process; and
- 16           (2) Any other regulations necessary to carry out subsection (b)(2) of this  
17 section.

18           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
19 1, 2017.