

SENATE BILL 421

F1
SB 314/15 – EHE

6lr2748
CF HB 86

By: **Senators Ramirez, Raskin, Cassilly, and Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Special Education – Translations of Individualized Education Programs or**
3 **Individualized Family Service Plans – Native Language**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the parents of a child with a disability to request the
5 translation into their native language of a completed individualized education
6 program or a completed individualized family service plan under certain
7 circumstances; requiring certain school personnel to provide the parents with a
8 certain translation of a completed individualized education program or a completed
9 individualized family service plan within a certain time frame; requiring the State
10 Department of Education and county boards of education to submit certain reports
11 on or before certain dates; defining certain terms; and generally relating to
12 individualized education programs and individualized family service plans.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Education
15 Section 8–405
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Education**

21 8–405.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

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

4 (3) “Extenuating circumstance” means:

5 (i) A death in the family;

6 (ii) A personal emergency;

7 (iii) A natural disaster; or

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

9 (4) **“INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM” AND “INDIVIDUALIZED**
10 **FAMILY SERVICE PLAN” HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS PROVIDED IN THE FEDERAL**
11 **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT.**

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

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

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

19 1. Address disciplinary issues;

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

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

24 (2) (i) At the initial evaluation meeting, the parents of the child shall
25 be provided, in plain language, a verbal and written explanation of the parents’ rights and
26 responsibilities in the individualized education program process and a program procedural
27 safeguards notice.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (2) If the individualized education program has not been completed by the
30 5th business day after the meeting, the parents shall be provided with the draft copy of the
31 individualized education program.

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

34 **(4) (I) IF THE NATIVE LANGUAGE SPOKEN BY THE PARENTS OF A**
35 **CHILD WITH A COMPLETED INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM OR A**
36 **COMPLETED INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN IS SPOKEN BY MORE THAN 1**
37 **PERCENT OF THE STUDENT POPULATION IN THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM, THE**

1 PARENTS MAY REQUEST THE DOCUMENT TO BE TRANSLATED INTO THE PARENTS'
2 NATIVE LANGUAGE.

3 (II) IF A PARENT MAKES A REQUEST UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I)
4 OF THIS PARAGRAPH, APPROPRIATE SCHOOL PERSONNEL SHALL PROVIDE THE
5 PARENTS WITH THE TRANSLATED DOCUMENT WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF
6 THE REQUEST.

7 (f) To fulfill the purposes of this section, school personnel may provide the
8 documents required under this section through:

9 (1) Electronic delivery;

10 (2) Home delivery with the student; or

11 (3) Any other reasonable and legal method of delivery.

12 (g) Failure to comply with this section does not constitute a substantive violation
13 of the requirement to provide a student with a free appropriate public education.

14 (h) The Department shall adopt:

15 (1) Regulations that define what information should be provided in the
16 verbal and written explanations of the parents' rights and responsibilities in the
17 individualized education program process; and

18 (2) Any other regulations necessary to carry out subsection (b)(2) of this
19 section.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,
21 2016, the State Department of Education shall report to the Governor and, in accordance
22 with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and
23 Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means
24 regarding:

25 (1) whether there are economies of scale that can be utilized to lessen the
26 financial impact of this Act; and

27 (2) how the needs of students whose parents speak a native language that
28 is spoken by less than 1% of the student population in the local school system can be
29 addressed.

30 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

31 (1) on or before August 1, 2018, each county board of education shall report
32 to the State Department of Education regarding the number of requests received under §

1 8-405(e)(4)(i) of the Education Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, the cost of
2 implementing these requests, whether it would be feasible to have this number increase,
3 and if so, by how many requests; and

4 (2) on or before September 1, 2018, the State Department of Education
5 shall compile the information received under item (1) of this section and submit the
6 information to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government
7 Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the
8 House Committee on Ways and Means.

9 SECTION ~~2~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 July 1, 2016.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.