

# Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities

## HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

### HOUSE BILL 718: STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – EARLY LITERACY AND DYSLEXIA PRACTICES – GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE

FEBRUARY 19, 2020

#### POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS OFFERED BY BILL SPONSOR

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC), a coalition of more than 25 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland, supports House Bill 718, which would require MSDE to establish a stakeholder advisory group to develop a reading and dyslexia handbook. The Advisory group would use the best practices cited in the Maryland Dyslexia Task Force report (2017) as the starting point for the Handbook.

Like 23 other states with reading and dyslexia handbooks, a Maryland handbook would provide teachers, administrators and parents with state specific, consistent best practices for reading and dyslexia and would include best practice information on reading instruction, reading screening, reading interventions for students at risk and public access to information on MSDE's public website. A majority of students with IEPs struggle with reading and have reading goals as part of their individualized education plan (IEP). Teachers, administrators, and parents need a definitive resource on reading practices and dyslexia practices that are easily located and accessible. For these reasons, the EAC supports House Bill 718.

For more information, please contact Leslie Seid Margolis, Chairperson, at 410-727-6352, ext. 2505 or at [lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org](mailto:lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org).

Respectfully submitted,

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