

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Larry Hogan
Governor

Sam Abed
Secretary

DATE: March 4, 2020

Bill Number: HB1323 - Juvenile Services Education - Education Records and School Enrollment – Requirements

DJS Position: Letter of Information

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS or department) is providing information for HB1323.

HB1323 requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and DJS to develop and implement a procedure to transfer a copy of a student’s education records from their local school system to the facility in which the student is placed within seven (7) days after a student is committed to the custody of DJS. Additionally, this bill requires MSDE and DJS to develop a plan for the re-enrollment of a student in a public or private school before the child is released from DJS.

Currently, a local school system in which a student is enrolled, must forward the student’s educational records to the MSDE Juvenile Services Education System (JSES) within three (3) business days after a youth is placed in a DJS facility.

For committed youth, the DJS re-entry team meets with the youth and their family before being released from DJS custody. During this time, the youth’s housing plan, educational/ occupational needs, ongoing behavioral/somatic health service requirements, and family relationships are reviewed to ensure that treatment and services are not interrupted. Families are invited to and encouraged to participate in the re-entry planning process, which is a key area for family engagement.

When a youth is released from DJS custody, the DJS Education Transition Unit works collaboratively with MSDE to provide assistance to parent(s) and guardians(s) for the re-enrollment of their child back into a local school system. If a youth is not re-enrolled within 10 days, MSDE JSES staff follow-up to assist the family and the student. After the youth has been in the community for 30 days, a DJS re-entry specialist will contact the student and family to assure that the youth has accessed all needed services, has successfully re-enrolled in their local public school if needed, and has remained in stable housing.