



Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director

BILL: HB 1296 – Public School Students – Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness Act)
DATE: March 3, 2021
POSITION: **Oppose**
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means Committee
CONTACT: Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director

House Bill 1296 requires that public school elementary students be provided programs of physical activity daily to total at least 150 minutes per week, including physical education and developmentally appropriate, moderate-to-vigorous activity, including recess and a minimum of 90 minutes each week of physical education. The program of physical activity for a certain category of student must also be consistent with the student’s Individualized Education Program.

The Public School Superintendents’ Association of Maryland (PSSAM), which represents all twenty-four local school superintendents, **opposes House Bill 1296.**

Local school systems understand the importance of and fully support physical activity for all students. Schools already provide students with safe physical activity opportunities supervised by well-trained, competent, and certified staff. However, to implement what is called for in this bill is not practical accommodating additional physical education within the current instructional day would require reduced instruction in another subject. The physical education curriculum currently provides teachers with the resources to meet their students’ needs. Further, physical education teachers work closely with the adapted physical education instructional specialists to determine the curriculum appropriate for special needs students.

PSSAM strongly believes that the Maryland State Board of Education and local school boards should retain the responsibility to set curriculum in our school systems.

Therefore, for the reasons stated above, PSSAM respectfully opposes HB 1296 and urges an unfavorable committee report.

One Voice, One Vision for Maryland’s Students