



Renee Spence, Executive Director  
9 Trotters Ridge Court, Catonsville, MD. 21228  
410-925-2183  
[pssamed@gmail.com](mailto:pssamed@gmail.com)

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BILL: House Bill 781  
TITLE: Education – Assessments – Reporting of Aggregate Results  
DATE: March 10, 2016  
POSITION: OPPOSE  
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means  
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM  
Email: [pssamed@gmail.com](mailto:pssamed@gmail.com); Cell: 410-925-2183

House Bill 782 prohibits the State Department of Education from including the scores of students with disabilities or English language learners when calculating or reporting any aggregate results of the assessment aligned with the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards.

PSSAM opposes House Bill 782. Maryland must follow federal law in reporting the aggregate results of assessments, including the scores of students with disabilities or English language learners. Federal law also requires Maryland to collect student demographic data that helps further clarify the populations served by the state's schools and local education authorities. Among the information collected are basic enrollment, attendance, student mobility, classifications of students receiving special services and school teacher qualifications.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) fully complies with the federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) when reporting aggregate assessment data on its websites. FERPA (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) prohibits the release of individually identifiable information to the public. The federal government requires significant reporting of student accountability aggregate data to the public. MSDE implemented necessary limits on the data reported on the website in accordance with FERPA guidelines. The website maximizes the information provided to the public while also protecting the privacy of small identifiable groups of students. For more information see The National Center for Education Statistics documents, including one Technical Brief entitled "Statistical Methods for Protecting Personally Identifiable Information in Aggregate Reporting."

PSSAM believes that legislation related to the reporting of aggregate results is not necessary because the issue is effectively being handled by federal policy and strictly adhered to by the Maryland State Department of Education and all local school system policies.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **OPPOSES** HB 781 and requests an unfavorable committee report.