

WHEREAS, The aforementioned benefits and opportunities are particularly significant for students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 56 million people in the United States have documented disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Studies indicate that 56% of people with disabilities do not engage in any physical activity, compared to 36% of people without disabilities, and only 23% of people with disabilities are active for 30 minutes three or more times per week; and

WHEREAS, Childhood obesity is a national health concern, and physical activity can help prevent secondary health problems related to disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Students with disabilities have historically been underserved by school physical education and physical activity programs, such as athletics; and

WHEREAS, Including students with disabilities in mainstream physical education and athletic programs and adapted programs can provide students with disabilities with the opportunity to realize the full benefits of such programs; now, therefore,

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

Article - Education

SUBTITLE 4B. PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETIC PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

7-4B-01.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "ADAPTED PROGRAM" MEANS A PROGRAM THAT IS SPECIFICALLY DEVELOPED FOR A STUDENT WITH A DISABILITY.

(C) "ALLIED SPORTS OR UNIFIED PROGRAM" MEANS A PROGRAM THAT IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO COMBINE GROUPS OF STUDENTS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES TOGETHER IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.

(D) "MAINSTREAM ATHLETIC PROGRAM" MEANS INTRAMURAL OR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITY THAT IS DEVELOPED AND OFFERED TO