

~~school system~~ compliance with certain provisions; providing for the construction of this Act; and generally relating to access to physical education and athletic programs in public schools by students with disabilities.

BY adding to

Article - Education

Section 7-4B-01 through ~~7-4B-07~~ 7-4B-06 to be under the new subtitle
"Subtitle 4B. Physical Education and Athletic Programs for Students
with Disabilities"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 provides that exclusion and segregation of individuals with disabilities by recipients of federal funds is prohibited discrimination; and

WHEREAS, The Americans with Disabilities Act, signed into law in 1990, provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity; and

WHEREAS, Maryland public schools offer a variety of physical education and athletic opportunities to students that provide numerous educational benefits, including greater academic success, better physical and psychological health, responsible social behaviors, and enhanced interpersonal skills; and

WHEREAS, Sports participation is an effective intervention in combating obesity; and

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