

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1310
Ways and Means

(Delegate Coley, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Public High Schools - Student Transcripts - Traumatic Loss Notation

This bill authorizes a high school student who experiences the death of a parent or sibling to request a standardized traumatic loss notation on the student's official transcript to reflect an impact on academic performance, achievement, or attendance. Local school systems must include the notation upon receipt of required documentation. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must develop standard language for the notation that maintains student privacy. High school counselors must notify eligible students of the option and the State Board of Education (SBE) may adopt regulations. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MSDE can develop standard language for the notation that maintains student privacy using existing resources. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: Local school system expenditures may increase minimally to modify transcript systems and process requests for traumatic loss notations authorized under the bill; however, any costs are expected to be absorbable within existing resources. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A student is eligible to request the notation only if the student submits a written request on a form provided by the local school system and a copy of the death certificate. The notation must use the standard language developed by MSDE and must

identify the school year and semester during which the traumatic loss occurred. A local school system must remove the notation upon the student's written request. With approval of a surviving parent if the student is under age 18, the notation may be accompanied by a letter written by the student describing the circumstances of the traumatic loss and its impact. Upon notification that a student has experienced a qualifying traumatic loss, a high school counselor must inform the student and any surviving parent of the option to request the notation and advise the student regarding its potential use in explaining academic fluctuations.

Current Law: There is no statutory provision that authorizes or requires public high schools to add specific notations to a student's official transcript to explain academic fluctuations caused by the death of a parent or guardian. Student transcripts, diplomas, and graduation requirements are generally governed by local school systems in accordance with minimum requirements set by SBE.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Baltimore City Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 2026
jg/mcr Third Reader - March 27, 2026
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 27, 2026

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510