



## Home School Legal Defense Association

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November 30, 2023

**SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL ([jeffrey.s.blank@acpsmd.org](mailto:jeffrey.s.blank@acpsmd.org))**

Dr. Jeffrey S. Blank  
Superintendent of Schools  
Allegany County Public Schools  
108 Washington Street  
P.O. Box 1724  
Cumberland, MD 21501-1724

***Re: Portfolio Reviews of Home Instruction Students***

Dear Dr. Blank:

By way of introduction, the Home School Legal Defense Association (“HSLDA”) was founded in 1983 to defend, advance, and promote homeschooling. As a public interest advocacy organization, HSLDA works to encourage local agencies and school districts to align their activities with the requirements of state homeschool laws, as well as federal anti-discrimination statutes, for the general benefit of homeschool families nationwide. We currently have over 100,000 families who are members of our association across the nation. These families have chosen to stand with us in this work as we seek to advocate for homeschool freedom and related Constitutional rights.

When necessary, we engage local counsel to provide legal representation for individual member families. This letter does not constitute legal advice to you, your agency, or any person. We encourage you to direct any questions you may have to an attorney who represents you or your school district.

We are in receipt of a letter from your office, dated November 13, 2023, and addressed to families educating their children at home under Maryland law. This letter states in pertinent part, the following:

**“This notice is to inform the parent/guardian of home instruction students that the review process will change this school year. Due to the increased volume of home instruction students, moving forward [sic] it will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ... schedule the Semester 1 portfolio review. ... If you do not call to schedule the portfolio review, the child shall be promptly enrolled in school.”** (emphasis in original)

We write to you today to ask if your office intends to enforce the provisions in this letter against any families exercising their Constitutional right to educate their children at home?



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If your office does intend to enforce the provisions in this letter, please inform us of when the Allegany County Board of Education adopted such a change in policy.

We trust that you and your staff are aware of Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A, § 10.01.01.F which states “[a] local school system may not impose additional requirements for home instruction programs other than those in these regulations[,]” so we appreciate your assistance in resolving this issue without any need for us to retain local counsel to represent any of our member families in Allegany County.

If you wish to discuss anything in this letter, I would be happy to talk with you. I can be reached via phone at (540) 338-5600, or via email at [will.estrada@hsllda.org](mailto:will.estrada@hsllda.org).

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wid", written in a cursive style.

William A. Estrada  
Senior Counsel

cc: LaNissir James, Maryland Association of Christian Home Educators (MACHE)  
Sue Manning, Maryland Association of Christian Home Educators (MACHE)  
HSLDA Member Families in Allegany County School District  
Kaylyn Paige, Student Services, Allegany County Public Schools ([kaylyn.paige@acpsmd.org](mailto:kaylyn.paige@acpsmd.org))