



STATE OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Wes Moore

TO: Elena Quiroz-Livanis, Secretary Maryland Higher Education Commission

CC: Lester Davis, Chief of Staff
Manny Welsh, Principal Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Administrative Officer
Michael Huber, Deputy Chief of Staff

FROM: Governor Wes Moore

RE: Directive – Strengthening Maryland’s Institutions of Higher Education’s Sexual Assault Policies

DATE: October 14, 2026

Our administration’s guiding principle is ensuring the safety and dignity of every Marylander. We protect our people. Nowhere is that mission more imperative than on our State’s college campuses, where students from every corner of the State, and across the country, come to learn, grow, and prosper. It is our collective moral and legal obligation to provide them with safe and secure learning environments.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (“MHEC”) ensures that every college and university in Maryland adopts and submits to MHEC a written policy on sexual assault, and MHEC is responsible for periodically reviewing and making recommendations for improving these policies. Deeply troubling accounts have emerged in recent days of how students outside of Maryland have bravely come forward to report sexual assault and have been failed by the institutions that are supposed to ensure their safety. And recently, the United States Department of Education issued a final Title IX rule that rolled back protections for victims of sexual assault.

This is a call to action. In Maryland, we will continue to identify opportunities to enhance the safety of our college campuses and to ensure accountability when these efforts fail. To that end and pursuant to my authority as head of the Executive Branch of State Government under Article

II, Section I of the Maryland Constitution, as well as Section 3-302 of the State Government Article of the Maryland Code, I hereby direct you as Secretary of Higher Education to issue comprehensive, actionable recommendations for improving campus sexual assault policies within 90 days of the date of this Directive. These shall include recommendations for strengthening sexual misconduct policies, reporting frameworks, and disciplinary standards across the State's institutions of higher education. I further direct you to work in coordination with the Office of the Attorney General, in the development of these recommendations.

This Directive is effective as of the date indicated above.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wes Moore', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Wes Moore
Governor