



***An Act Relative to Ensuring Equal Access to Education for All Students
H432, Rep. Decker***

This bill will make information available to the public in order to assist the Commonwealth and local communities address barriers to education that students may face due to bias and discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, disability, English Learner status, and/or sex.

School districts are already required to gather student data and submit it to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) pursuant to state and federal law. However, although this data is gathered, it is currently not available to the public in a manner that provides information about access to education for specific subgroups of children. This legislation directs DESE to publish data on the delivery of educational opportunities to students in a manner that will help ensure equity regardless of a student's race, primary language, disability, or sex. With this information, educators will be better positioned to address identified disparities. In the future, this legislation will require that DESE publish data in a similar manner regarding access to special education services for students throughout the Commonwealth.