



RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ON THE PROPOSED STATE TESTING REQUIREMENTS
MARCH 3, 2021

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted student education in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (hereinafter referred to as “AACPS”) for more than 11 months;

WHEREAS many parents have contacted the Board of Education and AACPS to report their child struggling as a result of a virtual learning environment, their change in family circumstances, or increased stressors as a result of isolation;

WHEREAS, even as the Board, the Superintendent, and our staff are fighting hard to bring back in-person learning, there are still obstacles ahead, as it is not an option for every family, and we anticipate that will take significant time, effort, and resources to make up for the learning loss that some children may have experienced;

WHEREAS, many teachers have categorized their current workload as nearing a breaking point, and testing will create additional responsibilities;

WHEREAS, in light of all of our challenges, this Board sent a letter to the Maryland State Department of Education imploring them to waive state testing requirements for the 2020-2021 school year;

WHEREAS the Maryland State Board of Education nevertheless voted to adopt the State Superintendent’s recommendations to approve the revised spring 2021 Maryland State assessment schedule.

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED:

THAT the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County disagrees with the decision of the State Board of Education to impose standardized testing on the local school systems for the 2020-2021 school year during a national pandemic and state of emergency; and

THAT we encourage the Maryland State Department of Education to consider local testing practices already implemented and that if AACPS is able to demonstrate that we are assessing students in Math and English sufficiently, we urge the State Board to permit these current practices be utilized to fulfill our obligations for the 2020-2021 school year; and



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2644 Riva Road • Annapolis, MD 21401
410-222-5311 • 410-222-5500 (TDD) • 410-222-5629 (FAX)

THAT we request the greatest flexibility allowable by law in implementing standardized tests for all local school districts if waivers are not granted, and that valuable in-person instruction not be disrupted; and

THAT we understand the State Board has been reported as having stated that “the results won’t carry any consequences for students or schools” and we now affirm that we support this statement; and

THAT we request a statement from MSDE confirming the report is accurate; and

THAT the AACPS will post a copy of this resolution on the school system’s website front page, and transmit a copy of this resolution to the State Superintendent, the State Board, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of the General Assembly, the Anne Arundel County delegations and all Federal Senators and Congressmen;

Approved, March 3, 2021:

Melissa Ellis, President

Dana Schallheim, Vice President

Candace C.W. Antwine, Member

Robert Silkworth, Member

Corine Frank, Member

Joanna Bache Tobin, Member

Michelle Corkadel, Member

Drake Smith, Student Member