The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes HB493 Teachers and Teacher Preparation Programs - Research-Based Reading Instruction. This bill would require the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB), by January 1, 2022, to require candidates applying for a certificate to teach students with disabilities, as a reading specialist, English language learners, as a reading teacher, or prekindergarten through sixth grade to successfully pass a written test of research-based reading instruction.

Local boards of education support investments and enhancements in programs to ensure that teachers are highly qualified and highly effective in the classroom. However, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes legislative proposals regarding the development and administration of teacher certification and professional development standards. Instead, we support the development and implementation of specific teacher education and certification requirements through the collaboration of MSDE, PSTEB, and higher education. Current Maryland State teacher certification requirements require teacher candidates to pass Praxis I and all teachers to have 12 semester hours in the following:

- Processing and acquisition of reading;
- Instruction of reading;
- Materials of teaching reading; and
- Assessment for reading instruction.

Additionally, the Maryland Framework for College and Career Readiness clearly outlines the standards local education agencies must include in curriculum documents. In addition, materials of instruction are selected and approved through local committees of educators to determine alignment, appropriateness, and quality of the resource.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education respectfully requests an UNFAVORABLE committee report on HB493.