The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes HB823 Education - Public School Teachers - Preparation. This bill would require county boards of education to offer a Teacher Academy of Maryland Program to students. It would also require that a supervising teacher meet certain requirements and require the State Department of Education to develop a digital recruitment platform aimed at encouraging individuals to enter the teaching profession.

A critical component of Anne Arundel County Public Schools’ (AACPS) success lies in its ability to recruit and retain a quality, diverse workforce that enables, empowers, and supports students to reach their full potential. AACPS supports the concept of this legislation and we appreciate the teacher recruitment effort because there is a real need for teachers. However, HB823 imposes a requirement on local boards of education, and we believe that school systems should have the flexibility to implement programs they deem appropriate. As such, we do not believe that a specific completer program should be mandated by State law. While well-intentioned, the establishment of a Teacher Academy sets a precedence for legislation to dictate specific programing at the local level.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an UNFAVORABLE committee report on HB823.