The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **SB667 Education - No-Zero Grading Policy - Prohibition**. This bill would prohibit a county board of education from implementing a no-zero grading policy. “No-zero grading policy” is defined as a grading policy that does not allow a teacher to issue a grade of zero.

Effective reform is most successfully implemented through collaboration and cooperative planning within the local community rather than through top-down decisions. As decisions are made on the local level, local boards of education receive and rely on public input. The relationship between neighborhoods and local public schools encourages participation by parents/guardians and other community members in the educational process so that everyone has a responsibility for and ownership of public education. By retaining decision-making authority at the local level, local boards of education can best balance educational practices, available resources to implement those practices, public input, and accountability. As such, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports local control of educational policy, and we must oppose SB677 which seeks to limit the authority of county boards of education in determining what policies best meet the needs of their students.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB677.