The Anne Arundel County Board of Education SUPPORTS Senate Bill 271. This Bill increases the amount of money in the Public School Construction Program. It establishes a dedicated $40M annual state capital grant program for local school systems with "significant enrollment growth or a significant number of relocatable classrooms." The program would be administered by the Interagency Committee on Public School Construction beginning in FY 2016 and thereafter. This funding would be in addition to any other conventional state public school construction program funds. "Significant Enrollment Growth" is defined as student enrollment growth in an LEA that has exceeded 150% of the statewide average over the past 5 years. "Significant Number of Relocatable Classrooms" is defined as an average of more than 300 relocatables in an LEA over the past 5 years.

School systems with significant enrollment growth have unique challenges in keeping up with the facility demands of their ever rising student populations. This was recognized last year through the General Assembly’s passage of Senate Bill 490 which provided a $20M annual allotment this Bill would expand upon those previously approved efforts and provide further assistance to school systems with these additional needs. Anne Arundel County Public Schools would benefit from the passage of this Bill and we support this Bill and the additional funding that it would provide us and other similarly situated school systems.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education urges the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee to issue a FAVORABLE Report on Senate Bill 271.