



HB512 PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION - MAXIMUM GROSS AREA ALLOWANCE FOR ENGLISH LEARNER STUDENTS

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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports **HB512 Public School Construction - Maximum Gross Area Allowance for English Learner Students**. This bill requires that regulations developed by the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) include a maximum gross area allowance (MGAA) for specified English learners (EL) that is equal to the MGAA for special education students. The new allowance applies only to new construction or major renovations approved on or after the bill's effective date.

The number and percentage of AACPS students who require English Language Acquisition (ELA) academic assessments and instructional supports continues to increase. Such ELA assessments and instructional delivery are best supported in a smaller teacher-student ratio class size environment, analogous to that for students eligible to receive special education services. HB512 would allow and fund, on a pro-rata basis, additional square footage to be constructed in support of these students. This legislation would result in \$500,000 or more of additional CIP program revenue annually from the State via the IAC process. The additional funding would help AACPS in providing better instruction for our ELA students.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB512.