



HB1250 CAREER EDUCATION ACT OF 2019

March 7, 2019

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **HB1250 Career Education Act of 2019**.

AACPS opposes legislation that includes provisions to substantially remove or weaken local board and school system discretion and decision-making authority over curriculum, instruction, assessments, or graduation requirements. Specifically, AACPS opposes the proposed legislation because it would:

1. Mandate on the administration of software used by school systems to administer postsecondary information processing and counseling by mandating the equivalency of the pursuit of a vocational certificate, industry certification, or apprenticeship program with the pursuit of postsecondary education;
2. Prohibit a school system from requiring a student to take a technology education course as a graduation requirement if the student has taken a CTE course;
3. Prohibit a local school system from directing a charter school or contract school on how technology education credits may be counted toward graduation; and
4. Mandate that if a school system pays for a student to take an AP exam, a PSAT, or a SAT, the local board shall pay for a student to take an industrial certification exam or apprenticeship entrance exams.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Maryland ESSA Consolidated State Plan, prominently feature a strong emphasis on CTE and apprenticeship programs. Maryland's statewide accountability system provides "credit for completion of a well-rounded curriculum" for those students who meet specified criteria. AACPS supports the benefits of CTE. The AACPS Career and Technology Education Office provides leadership, support, and resources for all courses and programs in the areas of Applied Technology, Business Education, Computer Science, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Technology Education. CTE programs offer students an opportunity to get a head start on their career, as well as, post-secondary education. However, we oppose provisions in the bill relating to a county board of education's authority over charter and contract schools. Specifically, sections 4-136 and 9-113 would limit a county board's authority in approving courses. We oppose any efforts to restrict the Board's authority and governance over charter and contract schools. In addition, we have concerns that allowing charter and contract schools to determine what would qualify as a technology education high school graduation requirement takes the Board out of the decision-making process. As such, a charter school and contract school under the Board's authority would be allowed to have different courses than those identified by a local school system.

AACPS also opposes the requirement in the proposed legislation that county boards of education pay for all CTE and apprenticeship exams if we already pay for AP, PSAT, or SAT exams for students. While well-

intended, this particular requirement creates an unfunded mandate that would have significant fiscal implications for school systems. This requirement would be extremely costly, particularly with the new 45% CTE requirement by 2025. Generally speaking, it costs \$25 per student for membership but competitions, including registration, travel, and lodging easily go above \$1,000 per student. AACPS students earned 841 certifications last school year. AACPS is not opposed to the merits of these exams, however, we believe that local school systems should retain the right to select exams for school system payment.

Additionally, AACPS also has concerns with the mandate on the administration of software used by school systems to administer postsecondary information processing and counseling by mandating the equivalency of the pursuit of a vocational certificate, industry certification, or apprenticeship program with the pursuit of postsecondary education. We support a county board's decision-making authority in determining how to structure and administer career counseling programs for high school students.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1250.