



HB985 PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS – SCIENCE CREDIT REQUIREMENT – COMPUTER SCIENCE AND COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **HB985 Public High Schools – Science Credit Requirement – Computer Science and Computer Programming**. This bill allows a student enrolled at a public high school to satisfy all or part of a requirement to earn credits in science by completing credits in computer science or computer programming.

AACPS supports local decision-making authority in developing curriculum in collaboration with the State Board of Education. Accordingly, the authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the State Board of Education and the local boards of education. Local boards of education and the State Board are responsible for researching, investigating, and evaluating both curriculum and assessments. The inclusion of computer science and computer programming as a science credit undermines and dilutes the intended value of the science component within public education. The program of studies in each school system is developed as a whole and aligned with the State and local standards and assessments. As such, we oppose efforts by the General Assembly to legislate local public school curriculum.

According to State regulations, to be awarded a high school diploma, a student must be enrolled in a Maryland public school system and have earned a minimum of 21 credits in specified subjects. AACPS students must earn a minimum of 26 credits to earn a diploma. Maryland students must earn three credits of science, including laboratory instruction, which are aligned to the High School Maryland Integrated Science Assessment. Computer science is not lab-based and does not align to Maryland science standards and would, therefore, not meet current State requirements and standards for science.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB985.