



HB966 PUBLIC SCHOOLS - FEES FOR SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES - PROHIBITION

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EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **HB966 Public Schools - Fees for Summer School Courses - Prohibition**. This bill prohibits a local school system from charging a student a fee for enrollment in a summer school course if the student attends a school in the local school system, credit for the course is a high school graduation requirement, and the student has previously taken the course, but did not successfully complete or receive credit for the course.

This legislation is an unfunded mandate. In accordance with AACPS policy, tuition for summer school courses is set at \$300 per course. However, AACPS offers tuition reduction for students who qualify for free and reduced meals, and students from families on government assistance programs such as medical assistance or SNAP. In the summer of 2018, there were 921 AACPS students enrolled in summer school. The total tuition for the 921 students would have been \$371,400 for the 1,238 courses in which those students enrolled. However, AACPS granted tuition waivers or reductions for 629 students which lowered the tuition AACPS collected to \$286,000.

While AACPS firmly believes that summer school must be affordable and accessible for all students, we believe that this legislation would have unintended consequences. AACPS has historical data to support that 1) summer school tuition inspires students to pass classes during the regular school year, and 2) students who must pay some tuition towards a summer class take the class more seriously and are more likely to pass the course during the summer.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB966.