



HB1152 PUBLIC SCHOOLS - STUDENT MEAL PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

March 4, 2020

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **HB1152 Public Schools - Student Meal Programs and Policies**. This bill sets forth specified procedures and best practices regarding student meal programs and policies.

AACPS' existing practices comport with the majority of the requirements set forth in this bill. AACPS' practices also fully comply with the applicable federal and State statutes governing this subject matter. However, the additional operational and reporting requirements required under HB1152 would result in a fiscal impact on the school system. In addition, the legislation mandates that some requirements be carried out in printed paper format rather than in our existing on-line/electronic format – this requirement would also result in an unfunded mandate.

As stated, AACPS already aligns with most of these best practice provisions in the bill and we see no need to impose a prescriptive legislative solution or to absorb the additional unfunded costs associated with HB1152. Accordingly, we recommend that Section 7-125(E)(1)(II) be amended to remove the printed information (only) requirement since many of the items are now readily available in electronic or online forms. We also recommend that the bill be amended to establish a new State funded program to reimburse local school systems for all costs associated with any meals provided to individuals with unpaid meal debt.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB1152.