



## HB1194 PUBLIC SCHOOLS - FEES FOR SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES - PROHIBITION

February 28, 2020

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

### OPPOSE

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

---

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB1194 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 1) the student attends a school in the local school system; 2) credit for the course is required for graduation from a high school in the local school system; and 3) the student previously took 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. For example, recent enrollment in summer school was more than 900 AACPS students. The total tuition for these students would have been over \$370,000 for the courses in which those students enrolled. However, AACPS granted tuition waivers or reductions to more than two-thirds of the students, which lowered the tuition AACPS collected by nearly \$100,000.

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, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1194.