The Anne Arundel County Board of Education OPPOSES Senate Bill 618 - Education - Achievement School District - Establishment. This bill would establish the Achievement School District in the State Department of Education to transform into high quality public schools all public schools in the State determined by the Department to enroll students whose academic performance ranks in the lowest 5% in the State. This proposed legislation would establish an Achievement School Board to oversee the Achievement School District. Senate Bill 618 would further require a local school system to cooperate with the Achievement School District during the transfer of a public school to the Achievement School District.

The Anne Arundel County Board of Education remains supportive of all efforts, within the limits of its resources, which provide opportunities to implement school level reform and creative models of delivering instructional programs. However, there remains a need for a certain level of accountability to ensure that students are learning and that public money is being spent appropriately. By creating an achievement school district to oversee and have authority over identified schools, Senate Bill 618 interferes with local governance and local board authority over public schools. We oppose any legislative or regulatory initiatives, such as Senate Bill 618, which seek to reduce local board governance.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education respectfully requests an UNFAVORABLE committee report on Senate Bill 618.