

# BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2644 Riva Road • Annapolis • Maryland • 21401

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**BILL:** SB618 CAREER YOUTH AND PUBLIC SECTOR APPRENTICESHIP ACT

**HEARING DATE:** FEBRUARY 28, 2018

**COMMITTEE:** EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

**POSITION:** OPPOSE

**CONTACT PERSON:** Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., *Legislative & Policy Counsel* (410.703.5352)

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **SB618 CAREER YOUTH AND PUBLIC SECTOR APPRENTICESHIP ACT**. This bill would require the State Board of Education to require that a local board of education count specified time spent in a registered apprenticeship program toward high school attendance and either high school graduation or a postsecondary credential, or both.

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County wholeheartedly supports and understands the benefits of a career and technology education (CTE) education. The Anne Arundel County Public Schools Career and Technology Education Office provides leadership, support, and resources for all courses and programs in the areas of Applied Technology, Business Education, Computer Science, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Technology Education. CTE programs offer students an opportunity to get a head start on their career, as well as, post-secondary education. Students can earn industry certifications and transcribed college credit while completing high school graduation requirements and use this acquired knowledge for entry-level employment and further education at a college, technical or business school, or an apprenticeship program. With 40 different completer programs, AACPS has something for everyone. Our State-approved programs of study are designed to prepare students for the 21st century global economy and its rapidly changing workforce needs. Just recently, 10 AACPS CTE students won their respective categories, 10 more finished second, and six others placed third at the recent SkillsUSA Region 3 championships, earning the right to compete in the upcoming State competition.

While the Board is supporting other CTE bills this session, we oppose SB618 because it includes provisions to substantially remove or weaken local board and school system discretion and authority over curriculum, instruction, assessments, or graduation requirements. We specifically oppose the mandate in this bill that the State Board impose a mandate on local boards of education to award credit to a high school student toward a high school diploma or a postsecondary credential, or both, for the work-based training and classroom instruction completed under a registered apprenticeship program. In addition, the bill would mandate that local boards of education count toward high school attendance the time a student, as an apprentice or youth apprentice, spends during work-based training with an employer under a registered apprenticeship program.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB618.