

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2644 Riva Road • Annapolis • Maryland • 21401

BILL: SB638 TEACHERS AND TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS - RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION

HEARING DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2018

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

POSITION: OPPOSE

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **SB638 TEACHERS AND TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS - RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION**. This bill would require the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB), by January 1, 2022, to require candidates applying for a certificate to teach students with disabilities, as a reading specialist, English language learners, as a reading teacher, or prekindergarten through sixth grade to successfully pass a written test of research-based reading instruction.

Local boards of education support investments and enhancements in programs to ensure that teachers are highly qualified and highly effective in the classroom. However, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes legislative proposals regarding the development and administration of teacher certification and professional development standards. Instead, we support the development and implementation of specific teacher education and certification requirements through the collaboration of PSTEB, the Maryland State Department of Education, and higher education. Current Maryland State teacher certification requirements require teacher candidates to pass Praxis I and all teachers to have 12 semester hours in the following:

- Processing and acquisition of reading;
- Instruction of reading;
- Materials of teaching reading; and
- Assessment for reading instruction.

Additionally, the Maryland Framework for College and Career Readiness clearly outlines the standards local education agencies must include in curriculum documents. In addition, materials of instruction are selected and approved through local committees of educators to determine alignment, appropriateness and quality of the resource.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB638.