

# BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2644 Riva Road • Annapolis • Maryland • 21401

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**BILL:** SB664 EDUCATION - FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT - COMPUTER PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE COURSES

**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 **SB664 EDUCATION - FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT - COMPUTER PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE COURSES**. This bill would allow county boards of education to authorize a student to satisfy a State or county middle or high school foreign language requirement by completing a course in computer programming language.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools endeavors to educate students about other languages and cultures through our world and classical languages curriculum. The inclusion of computer programming as a foreign language (world and classical languages) undermines and dilutes the intended value of the foreign language (world and classical languages) component within public education. The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports local decision-making authority in developing curriculum. The program of studies in each school system is developed as a whole and aligned with the State and local standards and assessments. Accordingly, the authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the State Board of Education and the local boards of education. Local boards of education and the State Board are responsible for researching, investigating, and evaluating both curriculum and assessments. As such, we oppose efforts by the General Assembly to legislate local public school curriculum.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB664.