

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2644 Riva Road • Annapolis • Maryland • 21401

BILL: HB1254 EDUCATION - SCHOOL DISCIPLINE - GUIDELINES AND DATA COLLECTION

HEARING DATE: MARCH 1, 2018

COMMITTEE: WAYS AND MEANS

POSITION: OPPOSE

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **HB1254 EDUCATION - SCHOOL DISCIPLINE - GUIDELINES AND DATA COLLECTION**. This bill would require that local school systems adopt the Maryland Guidelines for a State Code of Discipline as their code of student discipline. The bill also requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to (1) disaggregate and report data on student discipline in specified manners and (2) collect and report disaggregated data on alternative school discipline practices

In 2014, and after years of review and deliberations, the State Board of Education adopted new regulations in 2014 to dramatically reform the ways in which school teachers, principals, and superintendents may suspend or expel students, In addition, the guidelines define the educational and behavioral supports to be provided to students in disciplinary situations. Subsequently, Anne Arundel County Public Schools updated our policies and regulations related to student discipline to ensure compliance with the guidelines and regulations. Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) policies closely align with the Maryland State Board of Education's discipline reform efforts, as addressed in the Board's 2012 report entitled "School Discipline and Academic Success: Related Parts of Maryland's Education Reform." While AACPS policies are in accordance with MSDE guidelines, we oppose efforts to codify such guidelines. The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes legislation that would impose a "one size fits all" statewide approach to discipline and HB1254 attempts to do just this.

The Board has additional concerns regarding the section in the bill that would require specified data to be disaggregated. We are unclear as to the purpose for disaggregating data by age as this is not the most accurate method to disaggregate data. It is more helpful to disaggregate data by grade, which is currently done. In addition, it unclear as to why data would be disaggregated by special education. Disaggregating data by special education would result in skewed results. Similarly, it is interesting that the bill does not require data to be disaggregated by students eligible for free and reduced meals, which is currently tracked.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1254.