



HB705 CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION - TRAINING IN SOFT BUSINESS SKILLS

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **HB705 Career and Technology Education - Training in Soft Business Skills**. This bill requires career and technology education (CTE) programs in public schools to provide training in specified soft business skills.

AACPS maintains and operates two robust CTE programs in dedicated space at the Centers for Applied Technology North and South. The AACPS 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. In accordance with CTE program guidelines established by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), AACPS CTE programs address employability skills which are defined as skills that are essential for job success, but are not necessarily linked to specific occupational knowledge. They include interpersonal, communication, thinking, technology, and learning skills. MSDE has developed unit plans to specifically address employability skills.

AACPS opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum, courses of instruction, assessments, or graduation requirements, firmly believing that this role belongs to local boards of education in conjunction with the State Board of Education. In creating the State Board and local boards of education, the General Assembly has delegated to them the responsibility for guiding and delivering a high quality statewide system of public education through State standards and accountability measures, and locally governed and administered curriculum, teaching, and learning.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB705.