



HB110 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS - DAILY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (STUDENT HEALTH AND FITNESS ACT)

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **HB110 Elementary School Students - Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness Act)**. This bill requires all public elementary school students to be provided daily programs of physical activity totaling 150 minutes per week, including a minimum of 90 minutes per week of physical education. For any of the required minutes not spent in physical education, each elementary school must designate a physical activity leadership team to plan and coordinate opportunities for moderate to vigorous activity (including recess) to make up the remaining time.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports student physical education and we believe that students benefit from additional physical education and activity. AACPS understands the importance of physical activity and its positive correlation to academic performance as well its enhancement of a child's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. However, HB110 would mandate a specific physical education program in local school systems. While the bill is well-intentioned in its attempt to enhance student involvement in more physical activity and related physical education, the objectives of the proposed legislation can continue to be most effectively addressed at the local school system level.

HB110 would have a significant fiscal impact on AACPS. Currently, AACPS provides 60 minutes per week of physical education curriculum to elementary school children. To increase physical education instruction by 30 minutes a week, would result in an additional 45.6 physical education FTE at a cost of approximately \$3.5 million in FY2020 and increasing to \$3.8 million by FY2024. This legislation would also require AACPS to reduce instructional time in other content areas, or increase the length of the school day to accommodate the new requirement. An increase in the length of the school day would also have a significant fiscal impact.

It is critical for a local board of education to retain the authority to address curricular issues for its schools, and as such, AACPS opposes local public school curriculum content being mandated by the General Assembly. The authority to establish curriculum is the domain of the State Board and the local boards, the same entities charged with responsibility to research, investigate, and evaluate curriculum and assessments.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB110.