

***ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION***

2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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**TITLE: Primary and Secondary Education – Health and Safety – Sugar-Free Schools Act**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 65**

**POSITION: OPPOSE**

**HEARING DATE: January 20, 2016**

**COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**

**CONTACT PERSON: Jessica S. Cuches, Esq. 410-224-8561**

The Anne Arundel County Board of Education **OPPOSES** Senate Bill 65. This Bill requires each county board to convene a workgroup to study the best practices of other jurisdictions regarding methods of lowering students' total sugar intake per school meal, to consider the best practices implementation in the local school system, and to make recommendations to the county board based on the group's work. The workgroup shall include parents, students, teachers, school administrators, medical professionals, and nonprofit organizations from the county in which the board is located. The workgroup shall hold at least 2 public hearings and provide an opportunity for public testimony at each meeting.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) does not require the tracking of sugar in this manner. An analysis of any meal should be on the total calories and nutrients, not a single nutrient as is required by this Bill. Additionally, the workgroup proposed in this Bill is unnecessary if a county meets or exceeds the nutritional guidelines set forth by USDA. Anne Arundel County Public Schools currently has a Wellness Council and a School Health Advisory Council that is required and in place to best meet the needs of our students. The council is comprised of multiple stakeholders looking at the health and well-being of the whole child, using the same structure as the CDC – School Health Model.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education urges the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** Report on Senate Bill 65.