

# ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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**BILL:** HB18 – TASK FORCE TO IMPROVE PARTNERSHIP FOR ASSESSMENT OF READINESS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS SCORES FOR MARYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

**HEARING DATE:** FEBRUARY 2, 2017

**COMMITTEE:** WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

**POSITION:** OPPOSE

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The Anne Arundel County Board of Education **OPPOSES House Bill 18 Task Force to Improve Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers Scores for Maryland Public School Students**. This bill would create a task force to identify the best practices of specified local school systems, assess specified needs, design specified plans, and make recommendations regarding specified matters. The task force would also be required to submit a preliminary and final report of its findings.

The requirements set forth under **House Bill 18** are already being addressed via other means. Specifically, the accountability measures identified in **House Bill 18** are currently required under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Under ESSA, once local education agencies (LEAs) identify students through that process, both the LEAs and the Maryland State Department of Education would be required to implement their plans. This was also a component of the previous version of the law – No Child Left Behind – in which MSDE holds LEAs accountable and provides resources and support. As a result, a task force is not needed to do this work. Additionally, most of the members defined in the bill would not be able to complete many of the proposed requirements enumerated in the bill. For example, many task force members could not assess how PARCC affects the Individualized Education Program and English language learner students, determine curriculum resources, identify needs, review professional development support, technology needs, school schedules, and evaluate structures, among others tasks. Most of the individuals who would be assigned to the task force have very little or no background in any of the above-referenced topics.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education respectfully urges the Committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on **House Bill 18**.