

NNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

2644 Riva Road · Annapolis · Maryland · 21401

BILL: HB75 EDUCATION - GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS - FINE ARTS

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 75 Education - Graduation Requirements - Fine Arts**. The bill proposes to add computer science, multimedia, or computer programming to the list of approved Fine Arts Courses.

Inclusion of computer science, multimedia, and computer programming undermines and dilutes the intended value of the Fine Arts component within public education. Media Arts has been offered as a new component that would fall within the Fine Arts, the distinction between Media Arts and this bill's proposed courses is significant. While technology certainly can and should play a role in the delivery of a comprehensive artistic education, this bill would include courses with outcomes or curriculum that are not based upon Fine Arts standards. The Anne Arundel County Board of Education supports local decision-making authority in developing curriculum. The program of studies in each school system is developed as a whole and aligned with the State and local standards and assessments. The authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the State Board of Education and the local boards of education, the same entities charged with the responsibility to research, investigate, and evaluate both curriculum and assessments.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education respectfully urges the Committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on **House Bill 75**.