

# ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

2644 Riva Road · Annapolis · Maryland · 21401

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**BILL:** SB232 EDUCATION - PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS - ATTENDANCE POLICY

**HEARING DATE:** FEBRUARY 1, 2017

**COMMITTEE:** EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

**POSITION:** SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

**CONTACT PERSON:** JEANETTE ORTIZ, ESQ., *LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COUNSEL* (410.703.5352)

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The Anne Arundel County Board of Education **SUPPORTS with amendments Senate Bill 232 Education - Pregnant and Parenting Students - Attendance Policy**. This bill would specify that a student's absence from school due to the student's pregnancy or parenting needs is a lawful absence. **Senate Bill 232** would also require each county board of education to develop a written attendance policy for pregnant and parenting students that meets specified requirements outlined in the bill.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools has policy and regulation that is aligned with State attendance guidelines. We propose that **Senate Bill 232** be amended to strike the language beginning with “**THAT**” in line 2 on page 3 through “**DATE.**” In line 7 on page 3. As amended, the bill would require each county board of education to adopt a policy to address the needs of pregnant and parenting students. The amendment would also ensure local autonomy and allow school systems to determine how best to address their particular student needs as they are the entities best equipped to make these decisions.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education respectfully urges the Committee to adopt the proposed amendment and issue a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **Senate Bill 232**.