

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

TITLE: Capital Grant Program for Local School Systems With Significant Enrollment Growth or Relocatable Classrooms - Funding

BILL NUMBER: HB 722

POSITION: SUPPORT

HEARING DATE: February 23, 2016

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

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The Anne Arundel County Board of Education **SUPPORTS** House Bill 722. This Bill increases the amount of money in the Public School Construction Program. It establishes a dedicated \$40M annual state capital grant program for local school systems with "significant enrollment growth or a significant number of relocatable classrooms." The program would be administered by the Interagency Committee on Public School Construction beginning in FY2016 and thereafter. This funding would be in addition to any other conventional state public school construction program funds. "Significant Enrollment Growth" is defined as student enrollment growth in an LEA that has exceeded 150% of the statewide average over the past 5 years. "Significant Number of Relocatable Classrooms" is defined as an average of more than 300 relocatable classrooms in an LEA over the past 5 years.

Counties with significant enrollment growth, such as Anne Arundel County, struggle to keep up with the facilities demands that are associated with additional students year after year. This Bill recognizes that challenge and would assist us with chipping away at our \$2.1B capital construction and maintenance backlog. Since Anne Arundel County Public Schools typically receives 10% for the state-wide CIP funding, we could stand to gain at least \$4M annually. We are in need of, and support the additional funds this Bill could bring to our school system.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education urges the House Appropriations Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** Report on House Bill 722.