



SB894 COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION - COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES

March 3, 2020

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB894 County Boards of Education - Computer Science Courses**. This bill requires each local board of education, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, to submit an annual report on computer science courses to the General Assembly and the State Board of Education. The report must include the number of computer science courses offered in each public school in the county, along with other specified information and disaggregated data. Each local board must post the prior fiscal year data conspicuously on its website.

While the intent of this bill aligns well with how AACPS is pursuing the expansion of computer science in our system, it mandates yet another report local school systems must produce for the General Assembly. Local school systems have numerous reports to produce for MSDE and the General Assembly each year. This voluminous reporting requirement takes critical staff time away from the primary responsibility of school systems: educating students. In too many instances, there is no indication that many of these reports are being reviewed in a comprehensive manner to develop best practices or identify trends. Similarly, this legislation does not specify what will be done with the information gathered. Accordingly, AACPS believes that it should be the responsibility of MSDE to provide the required information.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB894.