



**SB762 EDUCATION - HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS - APPLICATIONS FOR
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID**

March 10, 2020

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB762 Education - High School Graduation Requirements - Applications for Student Financial Aid**. This bill requires public high school students, beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, to complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to the U.S. Department of Education or the Maryland State Financial Aid Application to the Maryland Higher Education Commission in order to graduate. The bill provides for exceptions to the new graduation requirement.

While we appreciate the innovation of this legislation, it infringes on local school system decision-making. AACPS opposes efforts by the General Assembly to encroach on local school system authority. The authority to establish graduation requirements is the domain of the State Board of Education and local school systems. Maintaining this authority with the State Board and local school systems allows for collaboration with the State and stakeholders to ensure that all students, schools, and school systems are held accountable.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB762.