



HB202 RESTORATIVE SCHOOLS FUND AND GRANTS - ESTABLISHMENT

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **HB202 Restorative Schools Fund and Grants - Establishment**. This bill establishes the Restorative Schools Fund and a grant program to provide funds to local school systems and individual schools for training on, and implementation and evaluation of, restorative approaches that build and sustain positive learning communities. Funding for the program is as provided in the annual State budget. Grants to local school systems must be used to develop and support restorative approaches, as specified. Expenditures from the fund are supplemental to funding that otherwise would be appropriated to schools and school systems for these purposes. The Maryland State Department of Education must establish procedures for the grant program if funding is provided in the State budget.

AACPS supports incentive funding for local school systems to help ensure safe and orderly school environments through effective programs, professional development, and support services for staff, including restorative practices and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, which help to effectively and appropriately administer discipline and other proactive initiatives at the local school level. Restorative practices empower schools to build a community where all students, staff, and families feel connected and valued within the school building. If a situation occurs where harm is done, schools can also use restorative practices to address behavior in a way that holds students accountable for repairing the harm while still providing them with an honorable path back into the school community. AACPS currently has a 5-year plan to implement restorative practices across the entire school system. The availability of funding established in this bill would greatly augment our staff and resources in this area.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB202.