



HB84 EDUCATION – CRIMES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS – APPLICATION

January 20, 2022

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

LETTER OF INFORMATION

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) is submitting a letter of information on **HB84 Education – Crimes on School Grounds – Application**. This bill repeals a provision of law prohibiting a person from willfully disturbing or otherwise willfully preventing the orderly conduct of activities, administration, or classes of any institution of elementary, secondary, or higher education.

Safety in public schools remains increasingly important to local boards of education as school-related security incidents and threats in Maryland and throughout the nation have increased over the years. Accordingly, AACPS supports legislation and program initiatives that contribute to the safety and well-being of students in school and in the community. Unfortunately, schools face potential security threats from trespassers, unruly individuals, and other potential situations that can cause disruption to the normal and orderly operations of a school.

We appreciate the sponsors amending the bill this year to specifically exclude students. By clarifying the application of this section of Education Article, a person who is not a student and enters a school and willfully disturbs the ongoing education being conducted would still be subject to a charge and penalty under the law. While this new language is incredibly helpful, we find the provision in the legislation which would include students who are “**CURRENTLY ON EXCLUSIONARY DISCIPLINE**” troublesome as we believe that this language creates safety concerns. As such, we urge the Committee to strike this language from the proposed legislation.

Thank you for consideration of this information regarding HB84.