



PSSAM
Public School Superintendents' Association
OF MARYLAND

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BILL: SB 909

TITLE: Anne Arundel County - Public Schools - Innovative Scheduling Pilot Program

DATE: February 28, 2024

POSITION: Favorable

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

CONTACT: Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, PSSAM

The Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM), on behalf of all twenty-four public school superintendents, **supports** Senate Bill 909.

This bill authorizes the Anne Arundel County Board of Education to establish a pilot program in one or more Anne Arundel County public schools using an innovative scheduling model. The innovative scheduling model may include an extended school year; year-round school; four-day school week; or any other model approved by the county board. The bill also authorizes any local board of education to explore the use of such innovative school scheduling models, provided that the models do not allow for prolonged lapses in instructional time in public schools.

PSSAM is pleased to take the unusual position to support a local bill. Maryland superintendents have been challenged to "reimagine" public education by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and this pilot program provides an ideal opportunity for innovation and creativity. Other local education agencies (LEAs) are eager to watch as Anne Arundel County (AACPS) embarks on this journey to test-drive alternative learning formats for today's modern and adaptable students.

Currently, state law mandates schools to be open for a minimum of 180 days annually, with specific hourly requirements for different grade levels. These rigid requirements hinder programmatic innovation.

This legislation opens up endless possibilities for finding scheduling solutions that meet diverse student needs. However, this journey cannot begin without this legislative change that will enable discussions with students, staff, and school communities. We know that AACPS will go above and beyond to actively involve students, families, staff, and stakeholders in any innovative school scheduling pilot program pursued.

For these reasons, PSSAM **supports** Senate Bill 909, and requests a **favorable** committee report.