

FINAL SB909 Support AACPS.pdf

Uploaded by: Grace Wilson

Position: FAV



SB909 ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – PUBLIC SCHOOLS – INNOVATIVE SCHEDULING PILOT PROGRAM

February 28, 2024

EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SUPPORT

Grace Wilson, Legislative & Policy Specialist (410.440.1758)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **SB909 – Anne Arundel County – Public Schools – Innovative Scheduling Pilot Program**. This bill authorizes the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) to establish a pilot program in one or more AACPS schools using an innovative scheduling model, including an extended school year, year-round schooling, 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 innovative school scheduling models, provided that the models do not allow for prolonged lapses in instructional time in public schools.

State law currently mandates that schools be open each year for a minimum of 180 days and a certain number of hours, 1,080 at the elementary and middle school levels, and 1,170 at the high school level. These requirements – and the need to meet both criteria – place constraints on school schedules that limit programmatic creativity and result in headaches for families.

For the second consecutive year, one of the legislative priorities of AACPS and the Board is to seek a change in this model and move to a system that permits greater flexibility in school scheduling while not reducing instructional time for students. This dual requirement is arbitrary and outdated, and it unnecessarily restricts our ability best meet the needs of our students, staff, and communities. Additionally, it runs contrary to the key component of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future: innovation.

The flexibility created by passage of this legislation would permit us to pilot innovative scheduling models that have been proven to improve moral and achievement for students and staff. We would like to be able to have discussions about implementing alternative schedules where they would better meet the needs of our students. We can’t give any meaningful thought to any innovative school scheduling model without this change in law.

Such an alteration could also eliminate or greatly reduce something most families dislike greatly about our school calendar: early dismissal days. Those days currently still count toward the 180-day requirement each year, but with calendar flexibility we could explore ways to remove some or all from the calendar. The school calendar for the 2023-2024 school year includes 12 early dismissal days for students. This change in law would enable AACPS to provide students with eight full days of instruction rather than 12 partial days of instructions, which would undeniably benefit students. The structure could also lead to full days of professional development for staff, which would also be full days for families to spend with children.

The possibilities are endless, and we could find ourselves down the road with several schedules that meet students' needs in various ways. We can't even begin the journey down that road, however, without this change in legislation.

Of course, we will actively engage our students, families, staff, and other stakeholders on any innovative school scheduling pilot program we pursue.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on SB909.

SB909 Anne Arundel County - Public Schools - Innov

Uploaded by: Mara Babb

Position: FAV



SB909 Anne Arundel County - Public Schools - Innovative Scheduling Pilot Program

Sunday, February 18, 2024

EDUCATION, ENERGY, & THE ENVIRONMENT

SUPPORT

Our names are Mara Babb, Subhashi Pradhan, Noor Chaudhry, and Julien Halleman, and we are students of Anne Arundel County and executive team members of the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC). We are writing in support of SB909 Anne Arundel County - Public Schools - Innovative Scheduling Pilot Program. If passed, this bill will allow the Anne Arundel County Board of Education to explore new, creative scheduling models that will lessen lapses in instructional time for schools.

For many county boards across the state, the phenomena of “summer learning loss” is real and prevalent, causing students to fall behind in classes and teachers to struggle to keep students at the same pace. An article from the Maryland State Department of Education’s (MSDE) Division of Early Childhood stated that on average, children lose the equivalent of one month of learning during summer break and that it takes teachers 4 to 6 weeks to get students back on track¹. Additionally, summer learning loss disproportionately affects young students of lower income who do not have access to summer learning alternatives. The same article from MSDE stated that by the end of fifth grade students from higher incomes gained 47 points on test scores through summer learning, while students from lower incomes had dropped 2 points.

It is crucial for the Anne Arundel County Board of Education to explore how students can best retain knowledge through piloting the Innovative Scheduling Program. This will make Anne Arundel County a model for the rest of the state to serve the students of Maryland and improve the quality of education in all Anne Arundel County schools. We, the students of Anne Arundel County, strongly support this bill as it gives our Board of Education the flexibility to explore different scheduling models that will prevent summer learning loss and create equity across socioeconomic status for children’s learning.

The CRASC Legislative Department refers back to the following relevant clauses of the CRASC Platform:

- *CRASC Supports*... “High standards of learning across the curriculum for all students;” (Plank III; Clause A)
- *CRASC Opposes*... “Discrimination of any form based on ... socioeconomic status;” (Plank X; Clause A)

Accordingly, CRASC respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on SB909.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mara Babb, Secretary of Legislation, babbara@gmail.com

Noor Chaudhry, Legislative Liaison, noorschaudhry@gmail.com

Julien Halleman, Legislative Liaison, julienh123@icloud.com

Subhashi Pradhan, Legislative Liaison, subhashi_pradhan@hotmail.com

¹ Lambert, Shannon. "How to Beat Summer Learning Loss and Find Success in Summer Learning Online." *Maryland Families Engage, Maryland State Department of Education*, 9 June 2020, marylandfamiliesengage.org/how-to-beat-summer-learning-loss-and-find-success-in-summer-learning-online/. Accessed 18 Feb. 2024.

SB 909 - Anne Arundel County - Public Schools - In

Uploaded by: Mary Pat Fannon

Position: FAV



PSSAM
Public School Superintendents' Association
OF MARYLAND

Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director
1217 S. Potomac Street
Baltimore, MD 21224
410-935-7281
marypat.fannon@pssam.org

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.

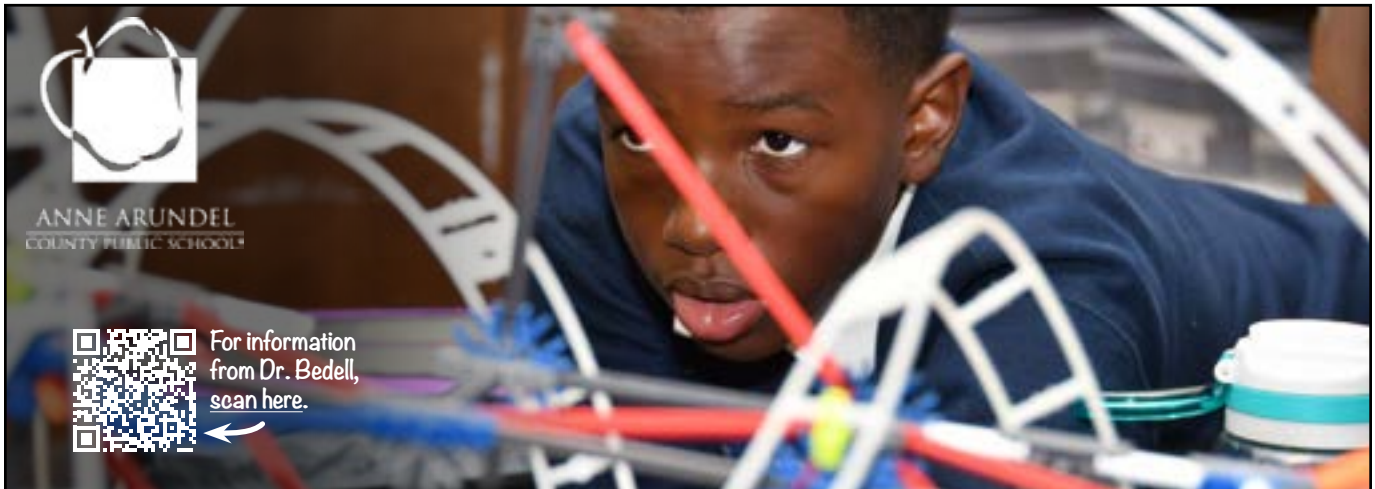
This legislation opens up endless possibilities for finding scheduling solutions that meet diverse student needs. However, this journey cannot begin without this legislative change that will enable discussions with students, staff, and school communities. We know that AACPS will go above and beyond to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

AACPS Innovative Scheduling Bill Overview.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Gile

Position: FAV



House Bill 881 and Senate Bill 909

Anne Arundel County – Public Schools – Innovative Scheduling Pilot Program

An initiative by Anne Arundel County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Mark Bedell and the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County. For more information, read *Straight from the Supt.* at <https://www.aacps.org/suptbedell>.

This bill:

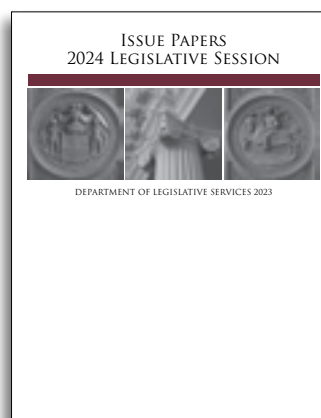
- ✓ **Removes the arbitrary requirement** to have public schools open for students 180 days AND a minimum number of seat hours each year.
- ✓ **Allows Anne Arundel County Public Schools to implement innovative school scheduling models** on a pilot basis that are proven to **better meet the needs of students, staff, and families.**
- ✓ **Supports the goals** of the Blueprint.
- ✓ **Reduces the number of early dismissal days** for students, a source of frustration for parents.

This bill **will not**:

- ✗ **Reduce instructional time** for students.
- ✗ **Require that Anne Arundel County Public Schools implement** a particular innovative school scheduling model, including a 4-day school week model.

Supported by:

County Executive Stuart Pittman
The Anne Arundel County State House Delegation
The Anne Arundel County State Senate Delegation
Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils
Anne Arundel County Council of PTAs



“Over time, innovative approaches, such as flexible school scheduling... may positively impact student outcomes.”

“Innovative scheduling models and reimagining the use of school time align with the objectives of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.”

DG_Written Testimony_SB0909.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Gile

Position: FAV

DAWN D. GILE
CHAIR



PAMELA BEIDLE
SARAH K. ELFRETH
CLARENCE K. LAM
JAMES ROSAPEPE
BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DELEGATION

Testimony in Support of SB0909 - Anne Arundel County – Public Schools – Innovative Scheduling Pilot Program

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

SB0909 would authorize the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) to establish a pilot program in one or more Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) schools using an innovative scheduling model, including an extended school year, year-round schooling, 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 innovative school scheduling models, provided that the models do not allow for prolonged lapses in instructional time in public schools.

State law currently mandates that schools be open each year for a minimum of 180 days and a certain number of hours, 1,080 at the elementary and middle school levels, and 1,170 at the high school level. These requirements – and the need to meet both criteria – place constraints on school schedules that limit programmatic creativity and result in headaches for families.

This bill, requested by AACPS and the Board, seeks a change in this model and a move to a system that permits greater flexibility in school scheduling while not reducing instructional time for students. The dual requirement is arbitrary and outdated, and it unnecessarily restricts their ability to best meet the needs of their students, staff, and communities. Additionally, it runs contrary to the key component of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future: innovation.

The flexibility created by passage of this legislation would permit AACPS and the Board to pilot innovative scheduling models that have been proven to improve moral and achievement for students and staff. Such an alteration could also eliminate or greatly reduce something most families—including mine—dislike greatly about their school calendar: early dismissal days. Those days currently still count toward the 180-day requirement each year, but with calendar

flexibility we could explore ways to remove some or all from the calendar. The school calendar for the 2023-2024 school year includes 12 early dismissal days for students. This change in law would enable AACPS to provide students with eight full days of instruction rather than 12 partial days of instructions, which would undeniably benefit students. The structure could also lead to full days of professional development for staff, which would also be full days for families to spend with children.

AACPS and the Board look forward to engaging with students, parents, educators, and administrators about the best way to implement these flexibilities. It is worth noting that this bill would not require implementation of any specific innovative school scheduling model, including a four-day school week model. Further, this particular model would not be considered for elementary school schedules.

The Anne Arundel County Senate Delegation plans to meet in the coming week to vote on endorsing this bill. If it does, my office will send a letter of support to the committee. Per the Fiscal Note, SB0909 would not require any additional state or local resources. For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB0909.

SB0909 Howard Co BOE Testimony 022824 for EEE - AA

Uploaded by: Staff Howard County

Position: FAV



Board of Education of Howard County
Testimony Submitted to the Maryland Senate,
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 28, 2024



Board of Education
of Howard County

Jennifer Swickard Mallo, *Chair*

Yun Lu, Ph.D., *Vice Chair*

Linfeng Chen, Ph.D.

Jacky McCoy

Jolene Mosley

Robyn C. Scates, Esq.

Antonia Watts

Lamia Ayaz
Student Member

William J. Barnes
*Acting Superintendent,
Secretary/Treasurer*

SB0909: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County - Public Schools - Innovative Scheduling Pilot Program

The Board of Education of Howard County (the Board) lifts up **SB0909 Anne Arundel County - Public Schools - Innovative Scheduling Pilot Program** for our fellow school system given innovation is worth supporting at a time when schools are looking to change the delivery of education in Maryland to maximize student achievement.

SB0909 takes the intent of statewide bills introduced during the 2023 session (HB0510/SB0321) to allow for flexibility in school system calendars and shifts to a local pilot available to Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS). Specifically, authorizing AACPS to operate one or more schools within the county using an innovative scheduling model, including: extended school year; year-round school; 4-day school week; or any other innovative scheduling model approved by the county board. If utilizing a pilot program, they must meet the minimum hour requirements under Education Article §7-103(a)(1)(i) and operate for a period of no longer than 5 years, including a 1-year planning process and a 4-year operating period. In planning for a pilot program, the local board must: provide notice of the intent to operate an innovative scheduling pilot program to the Maryland State Board of Education and the impacted school employees, the school community, and the employee organization designated as the exclusive representative of the impacted school employees; and negotiate the relevant issues with the employee organization designated as the exclusive representative of the impacted school employees in accordance with § 6-406 of the Education Article.

While Education Article §7-103(e)(1) in current statute allows for school systems, including HCPSS, to operate on a year-round model, the 180-day minimum requirement would still apply. HB0881 only maintains the minimum hours schools must be open for student attendance for an authorized pilot program. Under Md. Code Regs. 13A.09.10.14 these hours are set at:

- (4) A school providing an elementary school or secondary school educational program, or both, shall be open for student attendance for a minimum of:
 - (a) 1,080 hours in a school year for elementary schools and nongraded educational programs; and
 - (b) 1,170 hours in a school year for secondary schools.

As a legislative priority when seeking flexibility in the way school systems account for instructional time, the Board supports measures such as the intent of SB0909. Allowing a district to count hours instead of days, for instance, would provide a true reflection of overall instructional time, as well as give schools the flexibility to determine how those hours are distributed. Under current law, whether schools open for the minimum three hours, or conduct a full six-hour school day, both count towards one day out of the 180 day requirement. Additionally, half-days are notoriously unproductive for both

instructional time and professional development. When counting hours, rather than setting up two half-days of three hours to count towards the 180 day requirement, school systems could provide the same amount of instruction in one full day (six hours) and now have the second full day for productive instruction or professional development. Maryland is already at the top of the nation-wide range in instructional hours as one of six states that sets a minimum at 1,080 hours regardless of level ([Education Commission of the States, Instructional Time Policies, 2018](#)). This same report notes 22 states either have no minimum day requirements (only hours) or give districts the option to meet either day or hour minimums. Only three other states have a minimum higher than 1,080 hours.

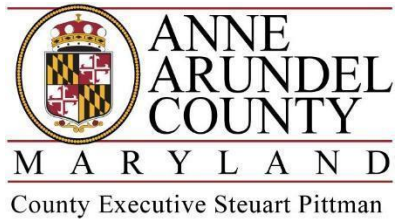
Especially given lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic regarding continuity of learning and lapses in instruction, SB0909 is a timely effort to allow a local school system to test the waters in being innovative and forward-thinking when it comes to maximizing instructional time to meet the educational needs of students.

For these reasons, we urge a FAVORABLE report of SB0909 from this Committee.

Anne Arundel County _FAV_SB909.pdf

Uploaded by: Steuart Pittman

Position: FAV



February 28, 2024

Senate Bill 909

Anne Arundel County - Public Schools - Innovative Scheduling Pilot Program

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 909 – Anne Arundel County - Public Schools - Innovative Scheduling Pilot Program. 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.

State law currently requires that schools be open each year for a minimum of 180 days and a certain number of hours, 1,080 at the elementary and middle school levels, and 1,170 at the high school level. These requirements – and the need to meet both criteria – place constraints on school schedules that limit programmatic creativity and result in headaches for families. This Bill would enable Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) and the Board to seek a change in this model and move to a system that permits greater flexibility in school scheduling while not reducing instructional time for students.

The flexibility created by passage of this legislation would permit AACPS to pilot innovative scheduling models that have been proven to improve morale and achievement for students and staff. Such an alteration could also eliminate or greatly reduce something most families dislike greatly about the current school calendar: early dismissal days. Those days currently still count toward the 180-day requirement each year, but with calendar flexibility AACPS could explore ways to remove some or all from the calendar. The school calendar for the 2023-2024 school year includes 12 early dismissal days for students. This change in law would enable AACPS to provide students with eight full days of instruction rather than 12 partial days of instructions, which would undeniably benefit students. The structure could also lead to full days of professional development for staff, which would also be full days for families to spend with children. As with any change such as this, it is critical that those affected be engaged, and AACPS has committed to actively engage our students, families, staff, and other stakeholders on any innovative school scheduling pilot program they pursue.

Anne Arundel County supports giving our schools the best chance to implement a schedule that reflects the needs of all of our students, families, and staff, and for these reasons, Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 909.