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of Howard County**

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**Board of Education of Howard County
Testimony Submitted to the Maryland House of Delegates,
Ways & Means Committee
March 5, 2025**

HB1264: UNFAVORABLE

**Public Schools - Mathematics Credit - College Preparatory Computer Science or
Computer Programming Course**

The Board of Education of Howard County (the Board) opposes **Public Schools - Mathematics Credit - College Preparatory Computer Science or Computer Programming Course** as a curriculum mandate.

HB1264 authorizes a high school student to satisfy one credit of a requirement to earn mathematics credits for graduation by completing a credit in an Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science course or, under specified conditions, an equivalently rigorous college preparatory computer science or computer programming course. In order for a computer science or computer programming course to qualify for mathematics credit under the bill, a student must enroll in the course concurrently with or after completing Algebra II.

Currently, the Maryland State Department of Education and University System of Maryland [allows LEAs to determine which computer science course\(s\) are appropriate](#) to substitute for a mathematics credit, but only prior to a student's senior year. Or if taken during a senior year, a student must be concurrently enrolled in a second mathematics course. Most computer science courses contain [a limited amount of mathematics](#) and are not deemed adequate substitutes for a full high school level mathematics course - a fact studied and supported by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM, 2016). Therefore, to satisfy [the current COMAR graduation requirement and USM application/enrollment requirement](#), the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) permits students enrolled in AP Computer Science (only) to be used in place of a high school math credit and prior to one's senior year.

As a legislative platform the Board supports local decision making in the development of curriculum that accounts for a balance of educational practices, available resources, public input, and accountability that is informed and guided by State Board established standards and models, rather than legislative mandates that give blanket approval to substitutes for high school math credits as encompassed in HB1264.

For these reasons, we urge an UNFAVORABLE report on HB1264 from this Committee.