



**SB983 EDUCATION - MARYLAND DATA ANALYSIS AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM –
ESTABLISHED**

February 26, 2020

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB983 Education - Maryland Data Analysis and Accountability Program – Established**. This bill establishes the Maryland Data Analysis and Accountability Program to be administered by the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center (MLDS Center) in consultation with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Department of Information Technology. The purpose of the program is to evaluate the success of The Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The bill establishes a board to oversee the program. By December 15 each year, the MLDS Center must report on the success of The Blueprint and make recommendations for changes to law, regulations, policies, or practices to improve student performance, including those specified. The report must include any agencies that fail to provide the center with requested data.

This legislation establishes a new program, staff, and governing board within the MLDS. The purpose of the program is to monitor the provisions and evaluate the success of The Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Much of the bill focuses on how the program, staff, and governing board will be allowed to conduct business.

This legislation will result in a very duplicative and unnecessary effort by local school system for many reasons. First, MLDS is very well established and already has the authority to report education data to the General Assembly. In addition, MLDS already has a State-appointed governing board. As such, it is unnecessary to have two governing boards working with essentially the same organization. This is not efficient or effective.

The major components of The Blueprint for Maryland's Future are either already being reported or can be reported once The Blueprint legislation is implemented. Accordingly, AACPS believes that this provision in the bill is also duplicative and unnecessary. The bill also proposes to measure "student growth" using multiple factors including assessments to indicate success. First, truly measuring actual student growth is very difficult to do and school systems already have a robust accountability system in ESSA that includes many measures. In addition, Maryland has several State laws that require local school systems to report additional data points.

In summary, MSDE already has every possible data point that the General Assembly would possibly need to monitor how The Blueprint is making a difference over time.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB983.