ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401 | 410-222-5000 · 301-970-8644 (WASH) · 410-222-5500 (TDD) | www.aacps.org

HB327 PUBLIC SCHOOLS - SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS - PROHIBITED CONDUCT

February 5, 2020
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **HB327 Public Schools - School Resource Officers - Prohibited Conduct**. This bill prohibits a school administrator or school safety coordinator from directing a school resource officer (SRO) to enforce discipline-related school policies, rules, regulations, or procedures. It also bars an SRO from unilaterally enforcing discipline-related school policies, rules, regulations, or procedures, and requires that training provided to them reflect that prohibition.

Currently, School Resource Officers (SROs) do not make determinations regarding student discipline. AACPS has policies and procedures in place regarding such interactions with SROs and law enforcement. If there has been a criminal law violated, adjudication is referred to law enforcement to address the criminal aspect of the behavior and a school administrator makes a disciplinary determination in pursuant to our policies, procedures, and the AACPS Code of Student Conduct. In accordance with a student's due process rights and current policies and procedures, it is the school administrator who makes the final school determination regarding student discipline. Once such a determination is made, AACPS policy affords a student appeal rights.

We appreciate the clarifying language to that will help ensure that the prohibited conduct in a manner that cannot be interpreted in an overly broad manner. Regular conversation and rapport among students, administrators, staff, SROs and other law enforcement are essential to ensure a more holistic, contextual view of student behavior. These interactions help to facilitate ongoing relationships that create safer school climates among student, administrators, staff, SROs and law enforcement.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB327.