



**SB548 PUBLIC SCHOOLS - CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SURVEYS –  
REVISIONS**

February 25, 2021

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**OPPOSE**

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB548 Public Schools - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Surveys - Revisions**. This bill requires MSDE to establish procedures for the administration of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Survey/Youth Tobacco Survey to public middle school and high school students in the State. It repeals the authority of MSDE to omit a certain amount of survey questions and requires MSDE to include in the survey certain tiers and questions related to adverse childhood experiences and positive childhood experiences.

Currently, each local school system provides the mandated Youth Risk Behavior Survey/Youth Tobacco Survey. This survey is meant to capture information that is relevant to student behavior and is used to address issues related to substance use, sexual behavior, and mental health. However, the addition of questions related to adverse childhood experiences such as sexual abuse, witnessing domestic violence, incarcerated parents raises serious concerns as such questions could evoke emotions related to any trauma that students have experienced. Because this survey is anonymous, it would be difficult for school staff to follow-up with any student who has an adverse emotional response to any survey questions. We also have concerns that this bill would have a negative impact on educational equity because the questions asked would have the potential of emotionally impacting AACPS students in such a negative way that will adversely impact their learning.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB548.