



## HB1450 BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND'S FUTURE - IMPLEMENTATION PLANS AND FUND - ALTERATIONS

March 8, 2022

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

### SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports with amendments **HB1450 Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation Plans and Fund - Alterations**. This bill alters certain dates for the development, adoption, and submission of plans to implement the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Blueprint). It also alters the date by which criteria to evaluate certain implementation plans must be developed. It further alters the distribution of certain sales and use tax revenues to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund and authorizes certain entities or programs to retain the unspent portion of a certain appropriation for fiscal year 2022.

AACPS supports the extension of deadlines for the comprehensive implementation plans required by the Blueprint. Such an extension is timely given the new administration at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the fact that the Accountability Implementation Board (AIB) has yet to be fully staffed. Given the current funding stream, the AIB will not be fully staffed until FY 2023.

While supportive, we do recommend amendments that are necessary for the State and school systems to implement the Blueprint. Specifically, AACPS requests that the bill include the recommendations outlined by MSDE regarding the college and career readiness requirements (CCR) and related timelines. For example, existing timelines call for the creation of CCR support pathways – for those students who have not demonstrated college and career readiness – to begin in FY 2023 and the post-CCR pathways to begin in FY 2024. The new timelines outlined by MSDE call for both pathways to begin in FY 2025. This will allow for ample feedback from stakeholders and provide local school systems with sufficient time to adequately plan and implement the Blueprint. AACPS is concerned that failure to provide for these extensions in the existing timelines will result in a lack of data and information necessary to fulfill the requirements established under the law. School districts will, therefore, not have the data necessary to implement the CCR support pathways in FY 2023. This requirement involves the development of new courses, changes to schedules and staffing structures, professional development for teachers, development of new individualized support plans for a large number of students, development of articulation agreements with local institutions of higher education and employers, amongst other things.

AACPS also requests that the timeline regarding the automatic withholding of funds language in the law be delayed as school districts are in critical need of these implementation funds. More specifically, the district requests that the timeline in Sections 5-405(b) and (c) are amended to FY 2024.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** committee report on HB1450.