



SB40 INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION – SYSTEMIC RENOVATION PROJECTS – ELIGIBILITY

January 19, 2022

BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports with amendments **SB40 Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation Projects – Eligibility**. This legislation includes systemic projects to the eligibility list of project types/categories that may be funded by the State’s Supplemental Public School Construction Financing Fund and the State’s Supplemental Public School Construction Facilities Fund, regardless of the cost of the project.

AACPS endeavors to provide students with high-performing school facilities conducive to learning. AACPS strongly supports adequate funding and the development of adequate and equitable State and federal programs to assist localities with public school construction, renovation, and major maintenance projects.

Systemic projects are typically component level replacements with in-kind features such as a roof, boiler, and chiller. These projects differ from a comprehensive building-wide renovation, school replacement, school addition, or new school construction projects that are currently eligible for funding from the State’s Supplemental Public School Construction Financing Fund and the State’s Supplemental Public School Construction Facilities Fund.

This legislation would provide local school systems with added flexibility in terms of the types or mix of projects that can be submitted for State funding consideration from the specified State funds. While we support the inclusion of systemic projects, we recommend that the legislation be amended to strike the “**REGARDLESS OF THE COST OF THE PROJECT**” language. We recommend this amendment to ensure alignment with the Administrative Procedures Guide published by the Interagency Commission on School Construction which governs the public school construction program. The Administrative Procedures Guide establishes a minimum \$100,000 project cost threshold for systemic projects that are funded via traditional IAC general obligation bond funding. In order to remain consistent, and to reduce the burden of administering small projects that can be handled via local pay-go funding, the same fiscal threshold should be imposed on projects funded by the State’s Supplemental Public School Construction Financing Fund and the State’s Supplemental Public School Construction Facilities Fund.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** committee report on SB40.