



**HB384 PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS - BRONCHODILATOR AND EPINEPHRINE
AVAILABILITY AND USE - POLICIES**

April 5, 2022

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports with amendments **HB384 Public and Nonpublic Schools - Bronchodilator and Epinephrine Availability and Use - Policies**. This bill requires each local board of education to establish a policy for public schools to authorize the school nurse and other school personnel to administer a bronchodilator, if available, to a student who is determined to have asthma, is experiencing asthma-related symptoms, or is perceived to be in respiratory distress under certain circumstances.

AACPS recognizes the importance of developing a healthy school environment which promotes student health, well-being, and the ability to learn. However, AACPS generally opposes legislation or efforts to limit the authority of the local school board to set policy related to school nutrition and health.

AACPS has particular concerns with the training provisions in the legislation as it requires that school nurses train and certify that non-nursing school staff are approved to administer not only first aid but also emergency medication. More specifically, the school system the language in the amended bill which would authorize a school nurse to designate school staff to receive training is problematic. A school nurse does not have the authority to determine whether school system employees receive training or designate school system employees to receive and should not have the authority to do so in this instance. This impacts AACPS as the school nurse is not a school system employee but rather a county employee. The district is also concerned about the use of the term “designated volunteer” in this instance as it is unclear and could create confusion.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** committee report on HB384.