



**HB1280 PUBLIC SCHOOLS - MATHEMATICS CREDIT - COLLEGE PREPARATORY COMPUTER
SCIENCE OR COMPUTER PROGRAMMING COURSE**

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EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB1280 Public Schools - Mathematics Credit - College Preparatory Computer Science or Computer Programming Course**. This bill authorizes a student who is enrolled at a public high school to satisfy a graduation requirement to earn credits in mathematics by completing a credit in a certain college preparatory computer science or computer programming course if enrolled in the course concurrently with or after completing Algebra II. It also requires a county board of education to make a certification that a college preparatory computer science or computer programming course may count toward the mathematics graduation requirement.

AACPS opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate local public school curriculum. The district supports local decision-making authority in developing curriculum in collaboration with the State Board of Education. Accordingly, the authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the State Board of Education and the local boards of education. AACPS firmly believes that the State Board of Education, in conjunction with local boards, should continue to be responsible for developing and implementing curriculum, assessments, and graduation requirements.

According to State regulations, to be awarded a high school diploma, a student must be enrolled in a Maryland public school system and have earned a minimum of 21 credits in specified subjects. AACPS recognizes and shares the General Assembly's support for computer science education. In fact, AACPS students must earn a minimum of 26 credits to earn a diploma, including 4 credits of math and 1 credit of computer technology. While AACPS believes that both math and computer courses are important to the educational experience of students, these courses are not and should not be treated the same.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1280.