



**SB699 PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS - FINANCIAL LITERACY - CURRICULUM, GRADUATION
REQUIREMENT, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB699 Public High Schools - Financial Literacy - Curriculum, Graduation Requirement, and Professional Development**. This bill requires the State Board of Education, with the assistance of the Maryland Council on Economic Education, to develop curriculum content for a certain course in financial literacy; requiring each county board of education to implement the curriculum in every public high school beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. It requires the completion of a certain financial literacy course in order to graduate from high school beginning in 2029.

While this legislation is well-intentioned, AACPS opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate public school curriculum. The authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the Maryland State Board of Education and the local boards of education, the same entities charged with the responsibility to research, investigate, and evaluate both curriculum and assessments. This allows local boards of education to collaborate with the State and stakeholders to ensure that all students, schools, and school systems are held accountable.

Maryland has already taken proactive steps to ensure that all of our students are financially literate by implementing Personal Financial Literacy Education Standards in grades 3–12 in every public school. The State has established a Financial Literacy Education Council to support local school system implementation activities and has partnered with financial institutions and other organizations to provide ongoing professional development for teachers. In addition, public and private partnerships help fund financial literacy initiatives in local schools.

AACPS strongly supports financial literacy and has also taken steps to ensure that all students have a strong foundation in financial education to make informed decisions and accomplish their educational goals. In 2007, we approved a one-semester Financial Literacy course for high school students as an elective. Since then, AACPS has developed additional elective courses in financial literacy. Additionally, AACPS has integrated financial literacy standards into multiple content areas, including math, social studies, family and consumer science, and language arts. As such, the current efforts by the State and local boards of education is the preferred approach rather than a State legislative mandate that such a course be a graduation requirement, which may not ensure that students are financially literate.

Finally, as required by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Blueprint), the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) will be conducting a comprehensive review of its educational content standards. AACPS believes that MSDE should be afforded the opportunity to conduct this review in accordance with Blueprint before the General Assembly imposes such a requirement.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB699.