

Amy Adams Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Amy Adams

Position: FAV

March 8, 2022

Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair Senator Pinsky, Vice Chair Senator Kagan, and the members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today in favor of SB 786-Curriculum Transparency and Publication Act.

For the record, my name is Amy Adams. I am a parent of 3 school age children in Baltimore County. I am the daughter of a 30 year special educator. I worked as a psychiatric nurse prior to starting my family. I am also a leader of a grassroots advocacy group of parents and students called The Baltimore County Parent and Student Coalition, Inc. Over the last 2 years, we have connected and collaborated with similar parent groups in 20 Maryland counties.

One benefit of the virtual school experience was that parents got a window into schools, classrooms, and learning. In a word: transparency. We got to see what kids were learning, what teachers were teaching, and how schools were using their time. Perhaps the thing heard most often from other parents during the past 2 years, and occasionally myself, is: "I had no idea." We had no idea this teacher was so organized, our child was so confused about a specific concept, or how much or how little learning actually occurs during their kid's school day.

After watching my younger 2 children struggle, I started by writing to their teachers and then to the administrators in the curriculum departments and then to board members asking for more information about specific recent curriculum changes. I noticed a shift in curriculum over the span of my 3 kid's school experience, current ages 11th, 8th and 5th grades. The change in the curriculum or the ways in which foundational skills were being taught negatively affected my children's' success. And I was curious why. I looked at the Maryland Report Card and saw that academic proficiency rates have been declining across the state for years before the pandemic.

I then became a very active participant in board meetings and committee meetings over the last 2 years. I and the members of our group are actively invested in making our schools successful because it will directly benefit our children.

I have been told that a summary of curriculum is available online. BCPS calls it Year at a Glance. I have also been told that detailed curriculum information is unable to be shared because it is protected as intellectual property. I was encouraged to schedule a time to meet with department administrators at their office during the workday in order to view curriculum. I did take advantage of that, but most families are not able to do so.

Changes to curriculum are discussed in committee meetings that occur during the workday a couple of times each month. Rarely are these changes communicated clearly to parents that are brought to the full board meetings that are held in the evenings.

Most parents are not opposed to changes in curriculum but want to be informed when they occur and provided with an opportunity to ask questions.

A couple of weeks ago, I testified in favor of a similar house bill that was specific to Baltimore County. Representatives of the BCPS school board who opposed the need for legislation to promote curriculum

transparency stated that our county already had this available to the public online. When the committee looked at the website during the meeting, it was discovered that the website was mostly blank. BCPS explained that the holes in the information available was due to the ransomware attack that occurred in November of 2020. Since that meeting, more content has appeared online, but it does not include each subject, the unit topics with identified textbooks, approved online programs, and websites.

I appreciate the intent of this bill is not to burden the classroom teachers, their primary role in the classroom is so vital to the success of our students. We are not asking for daily lesson plans to be published. That type of detailed information is available in Schoology accounts for BCPS parents. We think it is a reasonable expectation, in a world where almost everything is available online, for the very qualified and knowledgeable administrators to oversee the online publication of the up-to-date curriculum.

Strong schools create strong and thriving communities. Passing this bill would allow a stronger partnership between schools and parents. There's great power in this kind of openness. It can strengthen school communities, allow parents to see what's happening in their children's schools and classrooms, and provide students more of the support they need.

SB 786 is our way to keep the transparency gained during remote school and build on it. Taxpayers – parents included – should be able to review what public schools are teaching. This sounds simple, but without this bill, our state had made it difficult for taxpayers to access this material. Policies that require parents to physically visit a school district's office to see the school's reading list, or that limit the times of day during which someone can access the material or filing formal FOIA or PIA requests are obstacles to civic engagement.

I ask for a favorable consideration of Senate Bill 786 to strengthen curriculum transparency across the state of Maryland. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Amy Adams

Carol Frazier Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Carol Frazier

Position: FAV

March 8, 2022

I am writing in support of this legislation.

As a mother and grandmother, I know without a doubt that I have a better understanding of my child's needs than a teacher in a classroom of 20 or more students. I have no doubt that the majority of teachers care deeply about the children they teach, but they will never care as much as the parent.

In these days and times, our children are often exposed to teachings and ideas that can cause confusion and even emotional distress. As the parent, it is important that I understand the curriculum being taught to my child so I will be better able to address any concerns my child may have. Sometimes children don't really understand how to verbalize their concerns and, in the event I notice a change in my child, it would be helpful to have knowledge of the curriculum he or she is being taught, since it is possible said curriculum could be a contributing factor.

There is also the issue of transparency - at this time, parents are concerned by what they are hearing is being taught to their children, and are distrustful of their local boards of education. This has a negative impact on the children. Whether or not this concern is valid is not important - the fact is that parents are concerned and their concerns should be addressed. This legislation will, I hope, be a step in the process of reestablishing that trust which is vitally important to the children.

I understand that other states have been posting the curriculum for years, so I would hope the State of Maryland would see the wisdom and pass this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carol Frazier
64 Bramblewood Dr
Berlin, MD 21811
410-430-4456
God is good, always.

Curriculum Transparency

Uploaded by: Caryn Abbott

Position: FAV

03/08/22

Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

Maryland General Assembly

Legislative Services Building

90 State Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 786

Dear Legislators,

As a parent of two children that graduated from Worcester County Schools, the last child graduating in 2020, and as a taxpayer in this county, I have watched the steady decline of any transparency in our schools and BOE.

I've attended multiple school board meetings asking for transparency of the curriculum on the website to no avail. As a taxpayer who helps fund the schools, I am entitled to know what my money is used for as much as a current parent. We have been forced to send FOIA requests for any information we want from the board of education, why?

The curriculum and any books used should be on the website for all to see. We've been told one thing by administration, only to find out that the information was hardly correct.

SB786 is important to all residents of each county. I can't understand why our own Superintendent is opposed to this as it would bring what so many have sought for so long, transparency. As far as needing extra staff to accomplish this, how could this be when every school system employs a Director of Curriculum and has assistants, so why can they simply not print each grade-specific curriculum to PDF and post to the school systems website?

When the Director of Curriculum is getting a six figure salary, I think we need to question what they are actually doing to justify this.

I fully support SB786 in its entirety and I am respectfully requesting that our legislators support and pass this bipartisan bill in its current form as it is in the best interest of our citizens in every county.

Thank you for your consideration and passing this bill.

Sincerely,

Caryn Abbott

1514 Holly Swamp Road

Pocomoke, Md. 21851

443-783-5561

SB786-LOMBARDO-DPTC-TESTIMONY.pdf

Uploaded by: Darren Lombardo

Position: FAV



P.O. Box 5200
Salisbury, MD 21801

March 7, 2022

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Maryland General Assembly
Legislative Services Building
90 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 786

Dear Legislators:

The Delmarva Parent Teacher Coalition represents parents, students, teachers, and taxpayers in numerous counties across Maryland. Like many parents, I have experienced firsthand the obstructive tactics used by the school system to prevent school transparency, and their efforts to conceal what's being taught in each grade. The school system plays all sorts of games, finger points to the MSDE, misinforms, and sends parents into an infinite circle of no end. Historically, it has been so bad that a parent has to file a FOIA or MPIA request to find out what's being taught in their child's school. Upon receipt of a request, it is not uncommon to receive a response such as "no such document exists" to only learn that such documents in fact do exist. It is also common for a parent to be met with a \$40,000+ quote to produce the curriculum. The State of Maryland's Ombudsman is another obstacle that plays a useless role in the state. The State's Ombudsman cannot compel a school system to produce what has been withheld and cannot assess a penalty for noncompliance.

After walking through repeated revolving doors designed to deter a parent from continuing their request for information, the last resort is for a parent to file an appeal to the local board. By default, the board will unleash their attorney to respond to the parent as an attempt to intimidate. Some board members never even see some of the appeals that are filed. Administration interferes with this process, creating a wedge between the schoolboard, and the citizens that elected them. There are no procedures or policies for this practice, because they are internal tactics designed to obstruct and abuse citizens. In addition, parents that request information or question officials are bullied by the school system, contrary to their very own anti-bullying and whistleblower policies. Lastly, students face retribution by administration and faculty as they seek vengeance upon the parents who simply asked. Ironically, each school system receives funding specifically for parent involvement in education. Instead, these funds have been used to obstruct parent involvement in opposition of the intended purpose. This is nothing more than an illusion of justice.

Why would this be, and why do I bring this all up? It's all relative to SB786 and why this bill is so important. A parent and taxpayer have every right to know what's being taught in their public schools. They should be able to find out without having to file a FOIA or MPIA. Each school system staffs a Director of Curriculum, including curriculum assistants. It's their job to implement a school's orderly

curriculum, so the work is already done for the school year in advance. Therefore, there's no reinventing the wheel, and there's no heavy burden on staff or administration. All they have to do is simply print each grade-specific curriculum to PDF and post to their school system's website. It could be done in very little time. As an IT professional and web developer of over 30 years, I can attest that this is a very simple task. If each school's Director of Curriculum is unable to do this, then I would question the six-figure income that they receive while having nothing to show for it.

In conclusion, I fully support SB786 in its entirety. I am respectfully asking our legislators to support and pass this bipartisan bill in its current form, as it's in the best interest of our citizens. There's every good reason to pass it, and no good reason not to.

Thank you for your consideration,



Darren Lombardo, Representative
Delmarva Parent Teacher Coalition

Maryland-SUPPORT SB786.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacquelin Zubko-Cunha

Position: FAV

SUPPORT SB786

I'm urging you to support SB 786: Education - Public Schools - Curriculum Publication (Curriculum Transparency and Publication Act). This will require each public school to post the curriculum used for each course taught in the school on the school's publicly accessible website. In an era where distrust is mounting, this seems like a no-brainer to reassure parents that public systems aren't overstepping their bounds and appropriate academic material is being used with our children. If education is truly not being politicized, then I see no reason why a district would have a problem being transparent when it comes to curriculum.

Thank you for your time. Jacquelin Zubko-Cunha (mother of 2, Gaithersburg, MD)

Document 32.pdf

Uploaded by: Janet Greenhawk

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill 786-

I was a public school educator for over 30 years. During that time, I valued the partnership I had with parents when teaching their children. The more transparency there was, the better.

It seems that recently, schools and teachers don't want transparency anymore and want to hide what our children are being taught. One thing I have learned is that if someone is trying to hide something, they know they are doing something wrong.

This bill will allow parents to see what their children should be taught in the public school classroom. It will also allow them to see which materials are being used. In one respect, it will allow parents to know how to help children with homework if needed. It will also allow them to understand the broad selection of content being taught to their children.

Some have said that posting this information would require teachers to do more paperwork. While this is laughable considering the fact that government and local districts don't mind giving staff more paperwork to promote and oversee the district's agendas and goals, it is also not true.

Every day that I taught, I had a written plan. The days of "flying by the seat of your pants" in the classroom have been gone for over 25 years. Any teacher who claims to be competent has a written plan for each class, each day. I knew which materials I would need, which internet resources I needed, etc. They were written down to assure I was efficient and effective. If anyone wanted to see them I could send a photocopy or an electronic copy. It was no big deal. Yes, occasionally events would cause me to adjust that plan, but the basic concepts taught and materials used didn't change.

Some have claimed that this would limit the creativity of the teacher to seize the "teachable moment" and go off lesson for a bit. This is also laughable since more "teachable moments" occur in the context of a unit or lesson and don't and shouldn't consume much instructional time. Honestly, teachers who needed to document them could do so in under a minute. There's also nothing wrong with teachers being held accountable to achieve certain lessons in a given time. Our

children only have so many hours and days in school, and based on recent test scores, they need every one of them to be wisely used.

The most specious argument I have heard against this is that teachers are the professionals and should not have to subject their lessons to the judgment of the parents who are not educational “experts.” If there is a teacher out there who believes this, they are in the wrong profession. Truly professional educators understand that the parents have a major role in the education and development of their child. Allowing parents to see what will and is taught in the classroom will only give all the adults in the process an opportunity to work together more efficiently. If a teacher is afraid of having a parent judge a lesson, there is a severe problem.

Finally, we have to remember that a parent’s child is his/her pride and joy. All the hopes of the future reside in that child. Parents want to know that their children have been taught the same principles and beliefs that the parents hold. They also want to know that their child is not being taught to hate this country, other people, or themselves.

And let’s not forget public schools are institutions paid for by the tax paying citizens of this country. In Maryland, this cost is going to triple because of the new “Blueprint.” It’s only right that the citizens should have the ability to see what is going on inside the walls of the schools they pay for. Just like other institutions, they need to be transparent about what they teach our children.

Document 32.pdf

Uploaded by: Janet Greenhawk

Position: FAV

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Curriculum Transparency

Uploaded by: Katherine McCloskey

Position: FAV

Dear Senator Carozza (cc. Sharon Molander)

For some reason, the window to submit a testimonial for this proposed bill was less than a day, and I wasn't able to submit this online. Hoping I can send it to you directly for it to still be considered and included:

As a parent and taxpayer in Worcester County since 2005, I fully support SB786 as full transparency is greatly needed in our local school system. Parents have a right to know what is being taught to their child(ren) in terms of overall course curriculum and required book/textbook reading. This information is already created/compiled for each course, so there is no extra work for teachers except to post it on the school website -- which could easily be delegated to another at the school if there is any concern about this overloading our teachers. I'm all about supporting the teachers as their role is difficult enough. The support of this bill has everything to do with allowing greater awareness among parents who have often felt intentionally left in the dark unless they expend great time and effort to dig this up for every class for every one of their children each semester. And even then, as a parent, I've been caught off guard by a required book that I completely disagreed with and had to make a stand after my child started reading it which embarrassed my child. Other states have already led the way on this. It's time for Maryland to step up and show their main constituents (parents & taxpayers) that they care about being transparent. We need to see real action behind the empty words.

Thank you!

Katherine McCloskey
87 Nottingham Lane
Ocean Pines, MD 21811
410-991-5590

SB0786 FAVORABLE3:8.pdf

Uploaded by: Linda Diefenbach

Position: FAV

SB0786 FAVORABLE

Absolutely pass this bill. Curriculum MUST BE PUBLISHED. I can't believe this wasn't done years ago. Transparency is critical.

I'm requesting the EH&E Affairs provide this bill with a FAVORABLE review.

Linda Diefenbach
6742 Deer Spring Ln.
Middletown, MD

SB 786_mgoldstein_fav 2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Mathew Goldstein

Position: FAV



Secular Maryland

secularmaryland@tutanota.com

March 08, 2022

SB 786 - SUPPORT

Education - Public Schools - Curriculum Publication (Curriculum Transparency and Publication Act)

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Secular Maryland advocates for following the consensus of the experts, defined as the people who study and investigate the empirical evidence regarding the relevant matters, when setting school curriculum, and more generally for setting government policies. Unfortunately, public opinion may sometimes be motivated by different priorities that brings it into conflict with the expert consensus. Nevertheless, the public is entitled to know what their children are being taught in public schools, and more generally what their government is doing. Accordingly, we favor this bill and also favor more generally a policy of placing public sector information on the internet to make our government and society more transparent.

Respectfully,
Mathew Goldstein
3838 Early Glow Ln
Bowie, MD

SB786.pdf

Uploaded by: Patricia Barbely

Position: FAV

As a concerned taxpayers and grandparents residing in Maryland, who have become aware of the curriculum being presented to the children attending Maryland public schools, subsidized by taxpayers and having TRIED to meet with our local Board of Education to discuss the curriculum presented and books made available to our children, But have found it DIFFICULT or impossible to discuss what instructional materials are being used and what books are in our school libraries, we support SB786. Every parent or guardian of children attending public schools in Maryland should have complete access and transparency to the Board of Education curriculum, AS WELL as library resources made available to students. PLEASE SUPPORT SB 786.

support SB0786.pdf

Uploaded by: Peggy Williams

Position: FAV

SB0786 FAVORABLE

Please support this bill. I am outraged that some schools have been caught teaching highly inappropriate and sexualized lessons and assignments, under the guise of “health education.” Nothing should be taught except for basic reproduction and reproductive anatomy. Many school systems have been caught giving and teaching these lessons. They ARE CROSSING WAY OVER THE LINE!!! On another topic, I personally know in Md public schools, teachers are preaching political propaganda (for instance Kyle Rittenhouse shot black people – UNTRUE! and push constant negative opinions about one political party/President, under the guise of “current events.” **It is strictly ILLEGAL for government employees to be pushing political ideologies during working hours and these people should and will be held accountable.** We need to reign in what is going on in our school systems and the only way to do this is for the curriculum taught to be open and transparent to the public, who pays for it with their taxes.

Sincerely,

A concerned parent
Peggy Williams
Severna Park, MD

SB 786 Senator Carozza Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

MARY BETH CAROZZA
Legislative District 38
Somerset, Wicomico,
and Worcester Counties

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 8, 2022

The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
SB 786 Curriculum Transparency and Publication Act
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

I appreciate this opportunity to present Senate Bill 786, The Curriculum Transparency and Publication Act, with the intention of the bill to increase curriculum transparency for parents, taxpayers, and the general public.

We as a society continue to recover from the pandemic on all fronts – health, economic, and social with both short-term and long-term implications.

One positive development from the pandemic has been the number of parents who have become actively engaged in their children’s education as virtual learning became the norm.

As parents become more involved in assisting their children with virtual learning, it is natural that parents would want more information about their children’s school work, including their interest in their children’s curriculum.

Senate Bill 786 is an effort to take the next step to increase curriculum transparency by requiring each public school to post the curriculum on the school’s publicly-accessible website.

I want to recognize the leadership and commitment of all school personnel in making the extra effort to provide a quality education for all students and in being responsive to parents and others when questions are asked about curriculum and other education-related issues.

We on this Committee are aware that some Maryland school systems are posting general coursework information on their system’s website like my own home county of Worcester. My bill has been introduced to increase curriculum transparency by requiring the curriculum for each school to be posted on publicly-accessible to include instructional materials (not individual lesson plans), assessment techniques, internet links for, or the name of a textbook, and course syllabi without it being an undue hardship on school personnel. I believe the technology is available to allow this information to be posted publicly without being overly burdensome.

Representatives from various parent coalition groups from across the state support SB 786 and wanted to testify in person. Out of respect for the Committee’s time, they have submitted written testimony instead, and I have one witness on my panel, Amy Adams, who is a mother of three and a leader of a grassroots advocacy group for parents from Baltimore County.

I believe we who serve on this Committee and as members of the Senate have a shared goal in increasing curriculum transparency and I present SB 786 as a means to work with you to strengthen curriculum transparency in Maryland and request a favorable report.

SB0786 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Erin Stutelberg

Position: UNF

I am writing to oppose SB0786 the Curriculum Transparency and Publication Act and seek an UNFAVORABLE report by committee.

For the last six years I have trained new teachers for the state of Maryland at Salisbury University and worked extensively with mentor teachers and administrators in our local partner schools. Prior to working in higher education, I was a high school English teacher, and earned my Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. I write to you as a teacher educator who is committed to public education in Maryland and the teaching profession.

SB0786 asks teachers and schools to engage in curriculum in ways that are in direct conflict with research-based best practices. The first and most important practice when designing curriculum is to tailor lessons to the needs, interests, and background of your students. Teachers, therefore, cannot design effective lessons until they meet and get to know their students. This is why the first days and weeks of school are often used for pre-assessments and activities that build community and connections in the classroom. Asking teachers to post their curriculum and lessons months in advance is not best teaching practice.

Next, even after a teacher gets to know her students' backgrounds, interests, learning styles, and needs, lessons do not progress in a perfectly linear fashion. Sometimes students need more time to focus on a concept, text, or standard. Other times, students are able to move quickly through material and are ready for the next challenge. If a teacher posts two months of lesson plans and is expected to follow it lock-and-step, it would make for ineffective instruction that is not responsive to the learning needs of the students. Some of the most important qualities teachers can have are flexibility and adaptability. Good teachers are constantly assessing student learning and making adjustments to instruction based on students' needs.

As a teacher educator, I require my students to design a 4-8 week curricular unit in the fall that they will teach in their full-time spring internship. In secondary English, these units are generally structured around a whole-class text, like *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Lightening Thief*, or *Of Mice and Men*. My students plan these units based on Maryland State Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, essential questions, and measurable student learning objectives. We spend weeks aligning assessments to learning goals, planning engaging and interactive activities, and developing lessons to teach academic writing and language skills, productive class discussions, collaborative group work, and effective reading strategies. And yet, each spring when my students actually teach these units, they make many changes, small and large, to their curriculum: testing days change, world events happen, students' needs shift the pace or focus of the lessons, and formative

assessments reveal new areas of focus. That's what real teaching is – you plan ahead and prepare for all your plans to change.

Please do not burden teachers with a task (uploading lesson plans and materials) that takes their focus off of the students in their classrooms. Teachers and schools already share their lessons and curricula with parents and families in a myriad of ways, and provide alternate texts and lessons for any family that requests it. With Google Classroom and Schoology programs, parents have access to every assignment and document that teachers use in their classroom. Creating a policy like SB0786 will lead schools and teachers to turn to scripted curricula just to satisfy the requirement to post lessons, instead of doing what good teachers are trained to do: design original and creative plans that are tailored to their students' lives and learning.

I want my students, the future teachers of Maryland, to find joy and pride in the work of being a teacher. Therefore, I request an UNFAVORABLE report on SB786 from committee. A bill that treats teachers as less than professionals will only result in doing more harm to the profession.

SB786 Testimony on Curriculum Transparency Jankows

Uploaded by: Gail Jankowski

Position: UNF

Testimony OPPOSING SB786 Curriculum Transparency & Publication Act

Dear Chair Pinsky and the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

I strongly OPPOSE SB786, the Curriculum Transparency & Publication Act. Here are just a few of my reasons:

1. Curriculums are already available on County websites and detailed lesson plans are always available to parents if they request them directly from their children's schools and teachers.
2. Our schools have always been very transparent about Maryland State Standards, the Common Core Standards and they are easy for anyone to find. Both of my children attended Maryland Public Schools.
3. Since we know that there is no need to legislate such "curriculum transparency," I'd like to focus on the fact that this bill would require MORE non-instructional work by our already over worked teachers. In the last 2 years we have asked more of them than ever before, and they have risen to the occasion. We know our teachers already spend hours after school and at home, in addition to the hours in the classroom, getting ready to teach our students. We should not now begin asking each teacher to input and post a lesson plan for every subject they teach for every day, five days a week.
4. This bill would tie the hands of our excellent, highly-educated and skilled teachers by preventing them from making any diversion from their posted lesson plans. We need our teachers to be able to be flexible, adaptive and imaginative depending on what our students need each day to be successful.
5. Parents of students who are enrolled in our public schools do not need this legislation. Lou Taylor, Superintendent of Worcester Public Schools was quoted in the OC Today, March 4 edition, saying "he is confident that parents who are involved in their child's education know what is being taught and communicate regularly with the teachers."

Respectfully,

Gail Jankowski

District 38

Worcester County

Proud Grandparent of 3 current (and 2 future) students of Maryland Public Schools

SB786 Curriculum Transparency 3.8.22.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeanette Ortiz

Position: UNF



**SB786 EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS - CURRICULUM PUBLICATION (CURRICULUM
TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLICATION ACT)**

March 8, 2022

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB786 Education - Public Schools - Curriculum Publication (Curriculum Transparency and Publication Act)**. This bill requires each public school to post the curriculum used for each course taught in the school on the school's publicly accessible website not less than 60 days after the curriculum is approved or revised. It also requires each county board of education to ensure that public schools post the curriculum used for each course taught in the school on the school's publicly accessible website.

This bill is unnecessary. AACPS currently publishes content standards on their public facing academic websites. The public can, at any time, go to the website and review the courses and the standards within those courses. In addition, library materials are outlined on the school system's website. Additionally, at the beginning of the year, students in middle and high school receive course syllabi for each of their courses. In elementary school, parents receive grade level curriculum letters that outline the concepts taught in the four marking periods. AACPS' new learning management system also allows parents/guardians to view their student's classroom materials. This learning management tool allows AACPS the opportunity to create a more robust school-home partnership to support all students.

As required by MSDE, the Superintendent must ensure that curricular materials are aligned to State content standards. These standards drive the creation of curricula that teachers utilize in the design of daily instruction. The authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the State Board of Education and the local boards of education, the same entities charged with researching, investigating, and evaluating both curriculum and assessments. Maintaining this authority with the State Board and local boards allows local boards of education to collaborate with the State and stakeholders to ensure that all students, schools, and school systems are held accountable.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB786.

Testimony on Transparency bill.pdf

Uploaded by: Joan Roache

Position: UNF

Testimony OPPOSING SB786 Curriculum Transparency & Publication Act

Dear Chair Pinsky and the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

I strongly OPPOSE SB786, the Curriculum Transparency & Publication Act. I ask you to vote UNFAVORABLE ON SB786

School should be a place where children are exposed to many ideas, even ones that may not be totally comfortable for them or their parents. That is how they will learn and grow and eventually become great citizens of our country.

Parents of students who are enrolled in our public schools do not need this legislation.

Lou Taylor, Superintendent of Worcester Public Schools was quoted in the OC Today, March 4 edition, saying “he is confident that parents who are involved in their child’s education know what is being taught and communicate regularly with the teachers.”

Curriculums are already available on County websites and detailed lesson plans are always available to parents if they request them directly from their children’s schools and teachers.

This bill would require MORE non-instructional work by our already over worked teachers. In the last 2 years we have asked more of them than ever before, and they have risen to the occasion. We know our teachers already spend hours after school and at home, in addition to the hours in the classroom, getting ready to teach our students. We should not now begin asking each teacher to input and post a lesson plan for every subject they teach for every day, five days a week.

This bill would tie the hands of our excellent, highly-educated and skilled teachers by preventing them from making any diversion from their posted lesson plans. We need our teachers to be able to be flexible, adaptive and imaginative depending on what our students need each day to be successful.

Respectfully,

Joan Roache
Democratic Women’s Club of Worcester County
District 38
402 14th Street
Ocean City, MD 21842
Worcester County

SB 786. Curriculum Transparency and Publication Act

Uploaded by: John Woolums

Position: UNF

BILL: Senate Bill 786
TITLE: Education - Public Schools - Curriculum Publication
(Curriculum Transparency and Publication Act)
DATE: March 8, 2022
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes Senate Bill 786, which would mandate the policy and procedures governing student instruction and assessments by mandating public access to all instructional and assessment materials through posting on websites. MABE opposes this bill in favor of preserving each local board's governance role and authority to develop educational policies and procedures, including in the critically important area of parent and community engagement on issues of curriculum and assessments.

MABE's top legislative priority focuses on strong support for governance authority for local boards of education to adopt education policies and school system budgets reflecting local priorities and resources. MABE supports broad discretion for local board decision-making authority in exercising legislative, judicial, and executive functions in accord with state and federal law and principles of equity and excellence for all students. Specifically, MABE advocates that state and local initiatives not reduce local board governance or budgetary authority or create unfunded mandates.

MABE believes the principle of local governance by boards of education is fundamental to a sound system of public education, and that a sound system of public education is fundamental to sustaining the well-educated citizenry essential to a flourishing democracy. By retaining decision-making authority at the local level, local boards of education can best balance educational practices, available resources to implement those practices, public input, and academic and financial accountability. State law provides that "educational matters that affect the counties shall be under the control of a county board of education" and that local boards "determine, with the advice of the county superintendent, the educational policies of the county school system." Local boards exercise this governance authority in compliance with state and federal laws and in conjunction with the policies and regulations adopted by the State Board of Education.

Each local board plays a vital role in governing the local school system and engaging local communities and promoting participation by parents and other community members in the education process. Local boards are the primary advocates for local, state, and federal funding to support the teaching and learning of students and efficient and effective school system administration. Through MABE's board development program and other professional development activities, each board is striving to continuously improve its ability to govern in a manner that best meets the needs of all students in the local school system.

Local governance authority of boards of education in Maryland and throughout the nation is often challenged by state, federal, and private sector initiatives. MABE advocates that the General Assembly, Governor, and State Board engage in collaborative development of new policies and programs. MABE appreciates the strong historical record of the General Assembly's recognition and support for the governance role of local boards.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 786.

Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB0786.pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph Jankowski

Position: UNF

Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB0786 – Education – Public Schools- Curriculum Publication
(Curriculum Transparency and Publication Act)

Dear Chair Pinsky and members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee,

I oppose SB0786.

This bill does not appear to be the result of a request by public school officials nor a request from parents in district 38. This bill proposes actions which appear to have been requested by outside organizations, which do not support the interests of Maryland's students, educators or parents. This bill is divisive at best and at worst originated from hostile foreign governments whose purpose is to undermine our education system. In that similar bills have been proposed in numerous other states, it is likely that hostile foreign entities are at work, who would benefit greatly from the resulting division in our citizens.

I believe that action is required by my state legislators to protect the public education system in Maryland, which has provided a quality education to my children and grandchildren. This bill would harm the public education system in Maryland and must be opposed.

Respectfully,

Joseph Jankowski
Berlin, Maryland 21811

SB 786_Curriculum Transparency & Publication Act_U

Uploaded by: Susanna Eisenman

Position: UNF

SB 786_Curriculum Transparency & Publication Act_UnFavorable

To Senator Mary Beth Carozza and others,

I do not support SB 786 for the following reasons:

- 1) Teachers already share their curriculums with parents on “Back to School” nights at the beginning of each semester. Public posting of their curriculums could invite scrutiny by persons and organizations who may not currently have students in those schools. What then, is the purpose for posting? One can only conclude that this could lead to interference by persons or parties not immediately associated with the schools who want to influence how specific subjects are taught or even influence which teachers are retained.
- 2)The burden for fulfilling the requirements of this bill falls squarely on the teachers alone. This would take away more time from actual teaching and could adversely affect the students (i.e.: test scores, etc.).
- 3) Specifically to Senator Carozza, Worcester County students already have a long standing history of high standardized test scores, AP test scores and graduation rates. This bill would probably have no significant impact on improving students’ performance. I assume that no significant improvement would happen in Somerset or Wicomico Counties either. Again, what is the purpose or benefit of this law if it doesn’t help the students?

I would ask you to please reconsider the detrimental effects this bill could have on the students, the teachers, the administrations and the school boards. If teaching weren’t hard enough already and since we are facing problems with teacher hiring and retention nationwide, please do not pass this bill. Teachers are doing their best to help students and should be applauded for the work they do.

Thank you for your consideration,
Susanna Eisenman