



## HB890 EDUCATION - COLLECTIVE BARGAINING - CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES - CLASS SIZE

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

### OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB890 Education - Collective Bargaining - Certificated Employees - Class Size**. This bill repeals the prohibition on a public school employer negotiating the maximum number of students assigned to a class.

This legislation encroaches on local board authority and local school system decision-making. Management and instructional decisions regarding the number of students assigned to a class are based on myriad factors that should not be addressed through contract language. Establishing class size requirements within a collective bargaining agreement to negotiate smaller class size will be a costly arrangement, especially with a growing student population as exists in AACPS. A mandatory negotiation requirement restricts the school administration's decision-making regarding the most effective use of resources, including allocations for staff and space, with existing limited funding. School systems are not self-funded but depend on federal, State, and county governments for funding. That arrangement could create significant issues in instances where insufficient funding prevents the Board from meeting class size requirements. Local board of education and local superintendent authority should be maintained to make decisions pertaining to appropriate allocations of resources especially in instance where the union's interest is not aligned with managements and do not fully represent the best interest of students.

AACPS is also concerned that this legislation would have a negative impact on educational equity. Negotiating class size would create inequities across the district as it may allow some schools to maintain smaller class sizes while larger schools may have larger classes. Currently, AACPS can base decisions on the best interest of all AACPS students.

In addition, AACPS has concerns that this legislation would contribute to the ongoing teacher shortage, which would lead to an increase in substitute teachers in classrooms. Such an occurrence would adversely impact the delivery of instruction to students.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB890.