



HB1256 EDUCATION - DISCRIMINATORY CONCEPTS IN INSTRUCTION - PROHIBITION (ENDING DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2022)

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB1256 Education - Discriminatory Concepts in Instruction - Prohibition (Ending Discrimination in Public Education Act of 2022)**. This bill prohibits a teacher, an administrator, or any other employee of a public primary or secondary school and certain nonpublic schools from including certain discriminatory concepts in a unit of instruction.

AACPS values parent/guardian collaboration and feedback. Accordingly, AACPS currently has a comprehensive regulations and procedures regarding complaints which parents/guardians may utilize if they have concerns regarding curriculum and instruction at AACPS.

AACPS adheres to federal, State, and local nondiscrimination laws and regulations. As such, the district does not discriminate against any person and prohibits unlawful discrimination in its educational programs and employment practices. In accordance with State regulations, AACPS has also adopted an educational equity policy and regulation which address many of the concerns stated in this bill. The purpose of the State regulations concerning educational equity is establish, as a matter of State policy and priority, that each Maryland public school will provide every student equitable access to the educational rigor, resources, and supports designed to maximize student's academic success and social and emotional wellbeing.

It is important to note that each local school system is required to have procedures and practices in place to provide for educational equity to help ensure that there are no obstacles to accessing educational opportunities for any students and help improve achievement for all Maryland students and eliminating achievement gaps. As part of AACPS' is committed to educational equity, the school system continues to review and rewrite the district's curriculum utilizing an educational equity lens to help ensure a more inclusive educational experience for students.

This bill is unnecessary as the issue it seeks to address is already covered under numerous federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

Further, 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. AACPS opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate local public school curriculum or assessments.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1256.