



HB758 EDUCATION – PUBLIC SCHOOLS – LESSON PLANS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB758 Education – Public Schools – Lesson Plans and Instructional Material**. This bill mandates the posting of lesson plans and instructional materials used at public schools on the public school's website. It also establishes requirements for the development, production, and inspection of certain instructional materials referenced in certain lesson plans.

As required by MSDE, a local superintendent of schools must ensure that curricular materials are aligned with State educational 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. This bill is overly prescriptive and interferes with local board governance and the Superintendent's authority in accordance with State law. AACPS opposes such efforts.

The requirements set forth in the legislation would also increase teacher workloads. More specifically, the implementation of the bill would require additional work for teachers outside of their teaching day with students; that additional time would either need to be carved from current assignments – including planning, professional development, meetings, and clubs – or would be added to the teacher's workday. In addition, the definition of lesson plan would require some teachers, depending on grade level, to produce multiple outlines each day. The scale of this requirement, given the level of detail, would be massive for teachers. There may be instances where a teacher needs to pause on a planned activity due to student readiness, questions, or other factors and, using their professional expertise, pivot to other materials in the moment. Under this bill, a teacher would essentially be unable to do so as such an adjustment would not align with the requirements set forth in the bill.

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.

It is troublesome that the bill does not mandate posting of materials in schools with less than 400 students. This would create inequity to access for many families with children in these schools.

Given the uncertainty of the scale of the legislation, it is difficult to estimate the fiscal impact; however, a conservative estimate on the cost of implementation is approximately \$14.6 million. The cost is associated with the additional compensation the school system would be required to pay teachers for the additional time needed to implement the requirements in the bill. AACPS opposes unfunded mandates.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB758.