



## HB1145 EDUCATION - STUDENT BEHAVIOR - PARENT NOTICE AND REQUIRED COUNSELING (PARENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT)

March 9, 2022

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

### OPPOSE

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

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB1145 Education - Student Behavior - Parent Notice and Required Counseling (Parent Accountability Act)**. This bill makes it unlawful for a parent/guardian who is notified regarding their child's violent and disruptive behavior by a public school to fail to seek and participate in counseling with the child. A parent/guardian convicted of failing to seek and participate in the required counseling may be ordered by the court to perform community service. A public school must provide written notification to a parent or guardian of a child who engages in two or more incidents of violent or disruptive behavior on school premises or during school-related activities during a school year.

AACPS believes education is a community responsibility and everyone is accountable — the Board, Superintendent of Schools, principals, teachers, staff, students, parents/guardians, and the AACPS community. However, this legislation deviates from State Board of Education regulations and guidelines regarding student discipline. State regulations, which have the force of law, now establish the terms and conditions governing student discipline policies in local school systems. AACPS believes that current State laws and regulations, in conjunction with AACPS policies, effectively govern responses to student conduct without imposing the mandatory criminal reporting of student conduct proposed in this legislation. The district opposes legislation such as this which would impose a one size fits all statewide approach to discipline.

The approach to student discipline should be focused on changing behaviors and not punishing students. As such, school discipline should be administered fairly, equitably, and consistently in accordance with due process protections and with an emphasis on restorative practices and positive behavioral supports and interventions. Further, this focus requires the involvement, support, and accountability of the Board, Superintendent of Schools, principals, teachers, staff, students, parents/guardians, and other stakeholders in the AACPS community.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1145.