



**SB237 EDUCATION - CURRICULUM - UNIT OF INSTRUCTION ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001,
TERRORIST ATTACKS**

February 3, 2022

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB237 Education - Curriculum - Unit of Instruction on September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attacks**. This bill requires public schools and nonpublic schools that participate in State-funded education programs to include in the curriculum, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, a unit of instruction on the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that is consistent with certain guidelines developed by the State Board of Education. It also encourages nonpublic schools that do not participate in State-funded education programs to include in the curriculum a unit of instruction on the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

AACPS supports local decision-making authority in developing curriculum and opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum, courses of instruction, assessments, or graduation requirements, firmly believing that this role belongs to local boards of education in conjunction with the State Board of Education. Accordingly, AACPS incorporates civics education throughout our curriculum – from elementary school to high school. Over the course of the last 5 years, each of these frameworks has been rewritten by committees of teachers, administrators and other stakeholders in a process overseen by MSDE and approved by the Maryland State Board of Education. As it specifically relates to the September 11th terrorist attacks, AACPS provides supplemental resources curated for elementary and secondary school students to assist our schools in paying tribute on this day. In addition, lessons are more explicitly taught in Grade 9 U.S. History and Grade 11 World History and referenced in Grade 10 U.S. Government. AACPS continues to review and rewrite our curriculum utilizing an educational equity lens to help ensure a more inclusive curriculum.

In creating the State Board and local boards of education, the General Assembly has delegated to them the responsibility for guiding and delivering a high-quality statewide system of public education through State standards and accountability measures, and locally governed and administered curriculum, teaching, and learning. The program of studies in each school system is developed as a whole and aligned with the State and local standards and assessments. Accordingly, the authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the State Board of Education and the local boards of education. We are the same entities charged with the responsibility to research, investigate, and evaluate both curriculum and assessments. Legislation such as SB237, which seeks to interject piecemeal segments into the curriculum or to extract portions of the testing, only serve to weaken the effectiveness of the entire educational program.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB237.