



**HB737 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION OPTIONS - RIGHT TO LEARN AND BROADENING OPTIONS
AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TODAY PROGRAMS (RIGHT TO LEARN ACT OF 2022)**

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB737 Alternative Education Options - Right to Learn and Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today Programs (Right to Learn Act of 2022)**. This bill requires, on or before January 1 each year and based on certain star ratings, each county board of education to provide the parents/guardians of students who attend a failing school notice that the school is failing and a list of alternative school options; establishing the Right to Learn Program to provide students who attend a failing school and choose to pursue an alternative education option with certain scholarships. This bill also establishes the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program.

The Board opposes the diversion of public education funds to nonpublic schools. The Board specifically opposes the use of tuition tax credits, tax deductions, or vouchers as a means of reimbursing parents/guardians for their children's nonpublic educational expenses in Pre-K–12. Unlike public schools, private schools have no direct accountability to taxpayers for their use of tax revenues.

The diversion of public education funds to nonpublic schools is likely to have serious economic, constitutional, legal, and public policy consequences. If public education funds were used for the support of nonpublic schools, fewer resources would be available for public elementary and secondary schools. Further, the diversion of public education funds to nonpublic schools would impede the ability of localities to ensure an appropriate, safe, and equitable education for all students. Further, students in schools with limited parental/guardian and community support would be disadvantaged.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB737.