



**HB1301 NONPUBLIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS - CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES - COSTS OF
TEACHER SALARIES**

March 10, 2022

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB1301 Nonpublic Educational Programs - Children With Disabilities - Costs of Teacher Salaries**. This bill requires the State and certain counties to pay for costs of salaries for teachers at nonpublic educational programs that is equivalent to local school salaries.

AACPS believes all students are entitled to challenging instruction from highly qualified professionals that addresses their unique learning needs and differences. The district supports recommendations of educational professionals regarding participation in programs that provide the best opportunities to support and accelerate achievement for students with disabilities.

While well-intentioned, the district is concerned about the impact this legislation will have on available State and county funding for public school education. The legislation requires the State and counties to pay for the costs associated with the salary increases. This requirement will divert funding from public school education, which AACPS opposes. The potential for a decrease in public school funding is concerning because school districts are also responsible for paying the tuition of these nonpublic placements and this tuition could increase at any time. The district is concerned that passage of such legislation could amount to an unfunded mandate.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1301.