



HB47 PUBLIC SCHOOLS – EXPANDED AMERICAN HISTORY – DEVELOPMENT OF CONTENT STANDARDS AND IMPLEMENTATION

January 20, 2022

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports with amendments **HB47 Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation**. This bill requires the State Board of Education to, by December 1, 2022, develop content standards for expanded American history. It also requires each county board of education, in collaboration with the local school system, to develop and implement certain curriculum guides for expanded American history; each public school, by the 2023-2024 school year, to include expanded American history in the social studies curriculum; and requiring the State Department of Education and the State Board of Education to jointly analyze certain content standards.

AACPS generally opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate local public school curriculum or assessments. The authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the Maryland State Board of Education and the local boards of education, the same entities charged with the responsibility to research, investigate, and evaluate 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.

We appreciate that the legislation places the responsibility for the development of content standards for a more inclusive and comprehensive American history where it belongs – with the Maryland State Board of Education. It is time for Maryland to ensure that every public school student in the State receive accurate and thorough education about the extraordinary contributions that diverse groups of Americans have made in Maryland and across the nation. Failure to require the State Board of Education to develop such content standards has resulted in local school systems not educating Maryland students on comprehensive and inclusive American history. All children from all walks of life should have access to a rich social studies education history as it is the fabric of who we are as a nation. It is American history.

Currently, AACPS students in grades 4, 5, 8, and 9 study American History aligned to the MSDE Standards and Frameworks. 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 voted on by the Maryland State Board of Education. The introduction and components of the AACPS frameworks explicitly address the contents of the proposed bill. For example, special attention has been placed on local and State level African American History. The AACPS Social Studies Office is currently engaged in a local history project with the Office of Equity and Accelerated Student Achievement to establish connections and provide materials to integrate into K-12 curriculum related to local African American History.

While AACPS supports the goal and the spirit of the bill, we ask that the Committee identify potential funding sources for implementation. We also respectfully request that the Committee consider delaying the implementation date to ensure proper and meaningful implementation.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** committee report on HB47.