



HB1287 PUBLIC SCHOOLS - CURRICULA AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS - REQUIRED LIST OF INFORMATION (CURRICULUM TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2022)

March 10, 2022

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB1287 Public Schools - Curricula and Instructional Materials - Required List of Information (Curriculum Transparency Act of 2022)**. This bill requires each county board of education to direct each public school in the county to provide certain information regarding curricula and instructional materials beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. It also requires the State Superintendent to direct the Comptroller to withhold certain funding from a county board under certain circumstances.

AACPS already has a policy and regulation regarding parental involvement in schools. The school system recognizes that engaging parents/guardians in the educational process is essential to improved academic success for students. We further recognize that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and the family during the entire time a child attends school. In addition, AACPS already has procedures and practices in place to advise parents/guardians of school curriculum and to object to curriculum content.

That being said, AACPS strongly opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate local public school curriculum. The authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the State Board of Education and the local boards of education, the same entities charged with researching, investigating, and evaluating both curriculum and assessments. Maintaining this authority with the Maryland State Board of Education 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.

AACPS is committed to an ongoing and thorough review of curricula and materials of instruction to ensure that diversity, equity, and inclusion are promoted and evident. AACPS has a committee that reviews curriculum and materials of instruction. Representatives from all stakeholder groups including parents/guardians, teachers, and students are included in the review process. New courses are presented to the Board for review and approval.

AACPS currently publishes content standards on their public facing academic websites. The public can, at any time, go to the website and review the courses and the standards within those courses. In addition, library materials are outlined on the school system's website. Additionally, at the beginning of the year, students in middle and high school receive course syllabi for each of their courses. In elementary school, parents receive grade level curriculum letters that outline the concepts taught in the four marking periods. AACPS' new learning management system also allows parents/guardians to view their student's classroom materials. This learning management tool allows AACPS the opportunity to create a more robust school-home partnership to support all students.

Finally, this legislation is unnecessary as the public may contact the Superintendent and the members of the Board with any concerns regarding AACPS curriculum. Parents/Guardians, students, and members of the community also have the opportunity testify at regularly scheduled public meetings of the Board. Additionally, the Accountability and Implementation Board established by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future has mechanisms in place to hold local school systems accountable and withhold funding if necessary. As such, it is unnecessary and inappropriate for the Comptroller be involved in this process.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1287.