



HB1211 EDUCATION – COMPENSATORY EDUCATION – MARYLAND NEIGHBORHOOD TIER SYSTEM CALCULATION

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APPROPRIATIONS

SUPPORT

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **HB 1211 – Education – Compensatory Education – Maryland Neighborhood Tier System Calculation**. This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to establish the Maryland Neighborhood Tier System for the calculation of compensatory education enrollment and funding. The Maryland Neighborhood Tier System established by MSDE will group each census block in the State into a tier based on the census block's median household income, average educational attainment of the neighborhood population, percentage of single-parent households, rate of homeownership, and any other economic criteria determined by the Department that may determine a student's preparedness and ability to learn. Finally, the bill requires MSDE to monitor county board planning and spending of funds distributed to schools for compensatory education to ensure the funds are used for investments in research-based efforts to close subgroup student opportunity and achievement gaps, increasing student subgroup proficiency rates as measured by state assessments, and targeting resources to schools that serve students living in neighborhoods with the highest concentration of poverty.

Compensatory services are an individualized and designed using a data driven process. These services have been key to assisting students recovering from learning loss caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Under current law, compensatory education enrollment and funding may be calculated as the greater of the number of students eligible for free and reduced price meals or the number of direct certification students who are enrolled in a public school in the county in the prior fiscal year.

AACPS believes that the establishment of the Maryland Neighborhood Tier System will result in the more accurate calculation of compensatory education enrollment and funding for AACPS as this system relies on data rather than enrollment in government services to determine compensatory education enrollment and funding for a jurisdiction. This bill will result in increased State aid for compensatory education to Anne Arundel County and, therefore, will result in increased compensatory education services to some of our most vulnerable students, including special education students and students from low-income families.

Accordingly, AACPS supports the addition of the Maryland Neighborhood Tier System total to the data that may be used to calculate compensatory education enrollment and funding and respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB 1211.