



## **SB338 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION – EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR INNOVATION GRANT**

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EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### **SUPPORT**

Grace Wilson, Legislative & Policy Specialist (410.440.1758)

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **SB338 Primary and Secondary Education – Extended School Year Innovation Grant**. This bill establishes the Extended School Year Innovation Grant to develop and implement an extended school year scheduling model in public elementary and secondary schools. The bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to administer the Grant to participating public elementary and secondary schools to support certain expenses associated with implementing an extended school year scheduling model. Finally, this bill requires the Governor, for each fiscal year through 2035, to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$25,000,000 to MSDE for the Grant.

MSDE and local school systems across the State are seeking innovative approaches to educating students through the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Blueprint). However, there remains artificial constraints in law when it comes to school scheduling. For example, the requirement that public schools be in session for **both** 180 days **and** a minimum number of seat hours (1,080 at the elementary and middle school levels, and 1,170 at the high school level) **during** a ten-month school year. The grant program created by this bill will allow AACPS and other local school systems to explore the use of new and innovative school scheduling models that do not allow for prolonged lapses in instruction time that are permitted by existing law.

The flexibility to explore the use of new and innovative school scheduling models that do not allow for prolonged lapses in instruction time is essential to combatting the learning loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and invigorate education in Maryland.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on SB338.