



## HB5 EDUCATION – PLAYGROUND ACCESSIBILITY – COMMUNICATION BOARDS

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WAYS AND MEANS

### SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports with amendments **HB5 Education – Playground Accessibility – Communication Boards**. This bill requires county boards of education to construct communication boards in each public school playground on or before October 1, 2028. A communication board is defined as a device that displays photos, symbols, or illustrations to enable individuals with limited language skills to express themselves and communicate.

While AACPS appreciates that intent of this legislation, we are fundamentally opposed to legislative proposals which limit local authority over school facility prioritization, design, construction, procurement, maintenance, or operations. AACPS is currently in the process of installing communication boards at each public school playground, and while the majority of the materials have been purchased, funding for labor has not been accounted for and is being provided as allocations are made available. AACPS respectfully requests that this legislation be accompanied by sufficient funding to local county boards of education to meet the intent of the bill.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** committee report on HB5 Education – Playground Accessibility – Communication Boards.