



February 27, 2023

House Bill 1219

Maryland Educator Shortage Act of 2023
House Ways and Means Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Educator Shortage Act of 2023 would take important steps to address persistent staffing shortages in our schools and strengthen the pipeline of future educators.

Like other counties across the state and the nation, Anne Arundel has struggled with ongoing educator shortages affecting job categories across public schools, making it difficult for educators to meet their students' needs. Since I first took office four years ago, Anne Arundel County has added 531 teaching positions, 71 social-emotional learning positions, and 249 special education positions to Anne Arundel schools to keep up with the growth in our student population and reduce class sizes. We have also restored annual step and cost of living raises to help recruit and retain our talented and dedicated workforce.

This bill will build on the work we are doing in Anne Arundel County by implementing several improvements to attract and retain educators. These changes include:

- Creating stipends for aspiring teachers completing their teaching internship
- Establishing a Grow Your Own Scholarship Program to provide financial support to non-certified staff and education support professionals who want to become teachers
- Joining Maryland in the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact to make it easier to attract teachers from other states
- Redesigning and publicizing the Teaching Fellows of Maryland scholarship program at HBCUs
- Creating a state dashboard on educator recruitment, retention, and diversity

I ask for a **FAVORABLE** on HB 1219 in order to end the staffing shortage and support our next generation of educators.