



HB1329 – EDUCATION – PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION – FUNDING

March 11, 2026

APPROPRIATIONS

SUPPORT

Grace Wilson, Director of Legislation & Policy (410.440.1758)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **HB1329 - Education - Public School Construction - Funding**. This bill establishes that the intent of the Maryland General Assembly is to provide at least \$550 million for public school construction annually beginning in fiscal year 2027.

AACPS endeavors to provide students with high performing school facilities conducive to learning. The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County strongly supports adequate funding and the development of adequate and equitable State and federal programs to assist localities with public school construction.

In 2018, the Maryland General Assembly passed the 21st Century School Facilities Act, which made comprehensive changes to school construction funding and approval processes, including altering the role of the Interagency Commission on School Construction and establishing an annual goal to allocate at least \$400 million for public school construction and renovations projects to build, renovate, and improve public schools so as to provide high quality learning environments for students.

However, the increased State funding for public school facilities established by the 21st Century School Facilities Act has not kept pace with the capital needs of public schools, including the rising cost of construction. In fact, a September 2025 report from the Comptroller of Maryland revealed, "...a critical area of public education where the state has fallen behind is the physical condition of school buildings, despite increased state and county investment in recent years." The report concluded, "[f]or Maryland to maintain its position as a top-rated state for public school education and for the state to retain and attract middle class families that value affordability and quality public schools, the state and [local education agencies] must improve the physical conditions of schools. While increased capital improvements can be addressed through cost cutting measures, the ultimate solution will rely on statewide reimaging of funding formulas and revenue streams."

AACPS appreciates the intent of this legislation to increase the annual State appropriation for public school construction to ensure sufficient funding for public school construction and that local education agencies have the necessary resources to provide students with higher performing facilities conducive to learning.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB1329.