



## HB1430 – MARYLAND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM – SCHOOL FACILITIES – FUNDING

April 1, 2026

BUDGET AND TAXATION

### OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB1430 – Maryland Public Charter School Program – School Facilities - Funding**. This bill requires the Interagency Commission on School Construction to distribute funds to a public charter school for the maintenance and operation of public charter facilities. Such funds are required to be disbursed directly to the public charter school and may not be paid to a local governing body or the county board. For fiscal year 2028 and each year thereafter, the Governor is required to include an appropriation that is equal to the total aggregate student enrollment in the Maryland Public Charter School program for the prior fiscal year multiplied by \$200.

AACPS opposes attempts to allow charter school operators to participate in Maryland's Capital Improvement Plan, especially given the many unmet capital needs of public school systems.

In 2018, the Maryland General Assembly passed the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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." This report found that just 20 percent of the State's school buildings are in satisfactory shape or better, while the other 80% would need repair, renovation or replacement to get to that level. 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 reimagining of funding formulas and revenue streams." AACPS unmet needs currently total \$95 million.

Allowing charter schools to participate in Maryland's Capital Improvement program is counterintuitive at a time when there is great need to identify increased capital funding to ensure public schools can provide students with high performing school facilities conducive to learning.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1430.