



## **HB1334 – EDUCATION – ENGAGEMENT POLICIES AND SCHOOL COMPACT (MARYLAND PUBLIC EDUCATION PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP ACT)**

March 11, 2026  
WAYS AND MEANS

### **OPPOSE**

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB1334 – Education – Engagement Policies and School Compact (Maryland Public Education Parental Partnership Act)**. This bill requires each local board of education, by the 2027-2028 school year, to develop or amend a comprehensive parent and family engagement policy in consultation with parents, publish it online, review and revise it annually, and annually certify compliance with the Maryland State Department of Education. The policy must establish a framework for school-level parent-school compacts and build capacity for meaningful parent engagement. Beginning in the 2028-2029 school year, each public school must also develop a parent-school compact. The compact must define the responsibilities of schools, parents, and students; be developed collaboratively; be written in plain language; include provisions for communication, curriculum access, and educator qualifications; and be reviewed annually at a parent meeting. Finally, each school must post the compact online and annually certify compliance to its local board.

AACPS opposes the infringement upon local control in establishing educational policy proposed by HB1334. Local governance by boards of education is essential to a comprehensive system of public education. Retaining local board authority allows for collaborative and cooperative planning within the local community rather than through top-down decisions from the State. In fact, Section 4-101 of the Education Law Article states, “educational matters that affect the counties shall be under the control of the county board of education,” and that local boards of education, “determine, with the advice of the county Superintendent, the educational policies of the county school system.” Local boards of education receive and rely on public input and are best able to address local needs. The relationship between the community and local public schools encourages participation by parents/guardians and other community members in the educational process so that everyone has responsibility for and ownership of public education. Retaining decision-making authority at the local level allows local boards of education to best balance educational practices, available resources to implement those practices, public input, and accountability.

Furthermore, in addition to complying with state regulations mandating a citizens advisory committee and special education citizens advisory committee, AACPS has adopted a policy and regulation addressing parent, family, and community involvement.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1334.