



Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program – Personnel and Per Pupil 3 Grants – Eligible Uses

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

WAYS AND MEANS

FAVORABLE

The Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC) requests a favorable report on HB0352.

The Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC) is the representative organization of all students enrolled in the secondary schools of AACPS, dedicated to elevating youth voice and promoting student leadership.

HB0352 supports the goals of CRASC by allowing schools in high poverty concentrations to use personnel per pupil grants to fund fine arts programming beyond FY2027 by removing the sunset clause.

CRASC's platform supports "high standards of learning across the curriculum for all students"(Plank III, A) as well as "initiatives that encourage students that reward utilization of their educational opportunities."(Plank III, J). Fine Arts programs also serve as catalysts for leadership development and student voice, all of which are critical to MASC's mission. Fine arts are not an expendable elective, but rather are critical parts of developing students into leaders, whether that's through ensemble performances or student-led art exhibits.

Additionally, CRASC supports "initiatives that support school music and art programs" (Plank III, P). Sustaining funding for the fine arts programs will allow schools and students to create leadership roles for students to develop. For many students, especially those in high-poverty concentrations, the fine arts in schools may serve as a way for these students to understand and develop their ability to lead and change their school and community for the better.

Students deserve a well-rounded education that includes the fine arts, and it should not be based on their areas income.

Accordingly, the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0352 from the committee.



Thank you,

William Andrione, *Secretary of Legislation*

Alma Naghedi, Vivi Chin, and Veda Puvvala, *Legislative Liaisons*