



## **SB0612 – TALBOT COUNTY – PUBLIC SCHOOLS – SCHOOL SCHEDULE OPTIONS**

April 1, 2026

WAYS AND MEANS

### **SUPPORT**

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **SB0612 – Talbot County – Public Schools – School Schedule Options**. This bill authorizes the Talbot County Board of Education to operate schools within the county using a school scheduling model that eliminates early dismissal days to allow for less than 180 school days if the minimal hours of attendance are met. This bill also requires a school operating under a certain scheduling model to provide certain employees with an opportunity to make up lost wages.

State law currently mandates that schools be open each year for a minimum of 180 days and a certain number of hours, 1,080, at the elementary and middle school levels, and 1,170 at the high school level. These requirements – and the need to meet both criteria – place constraints on school schedules that limit programmatic creativity. AACPS supports legislation amending the law to require public schools to be in session for just the existing minimum number of student seat hours in a given school year. Such a change would provide local school systems with the flexibility to tailor instructional programs and school operations to innovatively best meet the needs of students while not diminishing in any way requirements regarding the amount of instruction provided to those students.

In 2025, the Maryland General Assembly passed HB0226 which permits AACPS to pilot a school schedule that eliminates early dismissal days to allow for less than 180 school days in the school year as long as the minimum number of hours of attendance required under the Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.03.02.12 is met. The implementation of HB226 in Anne Arundel County has already yielded approved student attendance across grade levels and student groups. AACPS supports similar flexibility for other school systems in Maryland.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on SB0612.