



## **SB795 YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP 2.0 ACT OF 2020**

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

### **OPPOSE**

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB795 Youth Apprenticeship 2.0 Act of 2020**. This bill creates a High School Level of Registered Youth Apprenticeships Program within the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) for the purpose of enabling high school students to accelerate their acquisition of occupational skills and work experience. Each local board of education must cooperate with MDL and registered apprenticeship sponsors to make the program's job opportunities available to students. MDL must issue a skills certificate to each student who completes the program.

AACPS maintains and operates two robust career and technology education (CTE) programs in dedicated space at the Centers for Applied Technology North and South (CAT Centers). The AACPS Career and Technology Education Office provides leadership, support, and resources for all courses and programs in the areas of Applied Technology, Business Education, Computer Science, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Technology Education. CTE programs offer students an opportunity to get a head start on their career as well as post-secondary education. These programs are in high demand by AACPS students and the business community.

As written, this legislation does not align with all current AACPS CTE apprenticeship practices, overcommits our business partners, restricts our ability to flex our students' time, and engages the school district in monitoring the wages and payments made to students. In addition, student transportation to and from jobsites will be an equity issue that will be significant in Anne Arundel County where public transportation is almost non-existent.

If this bill extends beyond AACPS' current capabilities at the two CAT Centers to our general student population, then AACPS does not have the number of partners required or the appropriate number of apprenticeships necessary to meet our student demand. Additionally, AACPS does not have the requisite oversight personnel to recruit, monitor, and evaluate apprenticeship locations and personnel based on our student numbers and mandated security protocols.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB795.