



HB15 PUBLIC SCHOOLS - STUDENT HEALTH - CERTIFICATE OF DENTAL HEALTH

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB15 Public Schools - Student Health - Certificate of Dental Health**. This bill requires, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, each student enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school to submit a certificate of dental health on a schedule established by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). MSDE, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), must adopt specified regulations related to standards and schedules. MSDE must also develop a standard form for a certificate of dental health and disseminate it to local boards of education and parents and guardians of students.

While well-intentioned, HB15 is an unfunded mandate that could have a significant fiscal impact on AACPS. As written, the proposed legislation is vague in its implementation and raises many questions, including:

- At what grade levels will students be required to present certificates?
- What level of dental health examination must be conducted?
- Can a dental health exam be conducted by a dental hygienist or does it have to be conducted by a dentist?
- Who will bear the cost of the dental health exams?
- Will children be prohibited from attending school if they do not have a certificate of dental health?
- Who will be responsible for follow-up with parents/guardians to ensure compliance?

Based on the number of unanswered questions, the potential costs, and the potential for exclusion from school, AACPS opposes this bill. The considerable staff time necessary that would be required under the bill would have a significant fiscal impact on AACPS. In addition, if the local school system is deemed responsible for providing the dental health examination, this would also have a significant fiscal impact.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB15.