



HB888 PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION - STATE SHARE OF ELIGIBLE COSTS - REGIONAL SCHOOL

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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB888 Public School Construction - State Share of Eligible Costs - Regional School**. This bill requires the State to increase the percentage of eligible costs paid for by the State by 20 percentage points for public school construction or renovation projects, facility renewal, systemic renovation, or other capital improvements for school facilities that are attended by students from two or more school systems.

AACPS and other school district would not benefit from the increase in eligible costs paid for the State under this bill as we do not meet the eligibility requirements. This legislation would essentially result in more State school construction funding for certain school districts and less for others, which creates inequities among the 24 school systems. While well-intentioned, AACPS opposes proposals that would limit or eliminate State funding for systemic projects that focus on the reduction of the maintenance backlog. This bill is concerning as there is currently a scarcity of State resources available for public school construction and such a bill would only further dilute the availability of funding for all public school systems in Maryland. Passage of this bill could potentially result in AACPS receiving less State Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) funding support than the school district currently receives. Accordingly, such a reduction in State resources related to CIP funding could lead to the delay of public school construction projects across the district. Proposals that would limit or eliminate State funding for systemic projects that focus on the reduction of the maintenance backlog.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB888.