



## **SB318 MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAREER-FOCUSED STUDENTS ACT OF 2022**

February 9, 2022

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### **OPPOSE**

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB318 More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2022**. This bill generally requires local school systems to assist high school students in preparing for admission to registered apprenticeship programs in a manner similar to how they assist students in preparing for admission to postsecondary institutions.

AACPS maintains and operates two robust career technology education (CTE) programs in dedicated space at the Centers for Applied Technology North and South. 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.

This legislation, however, is getting ahead of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Local school systems should be focused on implementation of Blueprint and college and career readiness and CTE pathways as opposed to working through piecemeal changes in the law. While AACPS appreciates the spirit of this legislation to both bolster the emphasis of CTE through intentional paradigm shifts and to require funding for industry recognized certification tests and apprenticeship entrance exams, it is unnecessary. What this bill seeks to do will be accomplished by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Accordingly, the legislation is unnecessary.

This legislation would also create an unfunded mandate by getting ahead of requirements set forth in the Blueprint. While AACPS supports the general goals of the legislation, the school system opposes unfunded mandates.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB318.