



**SB304 EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS - ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY CURRICULUM
REQUIREMENT**

February 3, 2022

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB304 Education - Public Schools - Asian American History Curriculum Requirement**. This bill requires the State Board of Education to develop curriculum for a unit of instruction on Asian American history in public schools in the State. It requires each county board of education to implement the Asian American history curriculum content standards, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. The legislation also requires each county board of education to ensure that a unit of instruction on Asian American history is taught at least once during elementary school, middle school, and once in a history course required to graduate from high school.

AACPS supports local decision-making authority in developing curriculum and opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum, courses of instruction, assessments, or graduation requirements, firmly believing that this role belongs to local boards of education in conjunction with the State Board of Education. Accordingly, AACPS incorporates civics education throughout our curriculum – from elementary school to high school. Over the course of the last 5 years, each of these frameworks has been rewritten by committees of teachers, administrators and other stakeholders in a process overseen by MSDE and approved by the Maryland State Board of Education. The contributions of Asian Americans are featured in elementary, middle, and high school at AACPS. Whether it is the contribution of Asian Americans to civil rights highlighted in grades 4 and 5 or the integration of Asian American history in U.S. History courses, AACPS has worked to provide a more inclusive American history curriculum to students. AACPS agrees that public school curriculum must be more inclusive, and staff continues to review and rewrite curriculum utilizing an educational equity lens to help ensure more inclusivity.

It is important to note that AACPS supports with amendments HB47 Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation. AACPS appreciates that the legislation places the responsibility for the development of content standards for a more inclusive and comprehensive American history where it belongs – with the Maryland State Board of Education. This bill requires that the content standards for expanded American history to include instruction on the history and contributions several groups of Americans, including Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. AACPS believes that this bill is more inclusive and best addresses the issues surrounding an inclusive American history curriculum.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB304.