



**SB112 – COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION – STUDENT CELLULAR PHONE USE – POLICY
REQUIRED**

January 17, 2024

EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

OPPOSE

Grace Wilson, Legislative & Policy Specialist (410.440.1758)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB112 – County Boards of Education – Student Cellular Phone Use – Policy Required**. This bill requires each county board to develop and adopt a policy prohibiting students from using a cell phone during instructional time unless a teacher expressly directs students to use cell phones for educational purposes.

State law establishes educational matters that affect the counties shall be under the control of the county board of education, and that local boards of education, “determine, with advice from the county Superintendent, the educational policies of the county school system.” AACPS supports local control of educational policies and opposes efforts such as this that would reduce or circumscribe local board authority to establish school system policy. Local boards of education receive and rely on public input and are best able to address local needs. The relationship between the community and local public schools encourages participation by parents, guardians and other community members.

While AACPS believes that students should not be using cell phones during instructional time unless directed by a teacher, this bill infringes upon the ability of local school systems to establish policies and procedures that best address the needs of their communities.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB112.