

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

April 25, 2016

Background Information:

The Harford County Public Schools Office of Governmental Relations under the guidance of the Superintendent initiates and sustains liaison activities with local, state, and national policymakers in order to achieve legislative goals for the Board of Education and the school system. The office is also charged with projecting the positive leadership of the school system regarding education, policy, and financing.

Discussion:

To be considered by the Harford County Board of Education is the Summary of the 2016 Session of the Maryland General Assembly. When the 2016 regular session of the Maryland General Assembly came to a close at midnight on April 11, 2016, a total of 2,817 bills had been introduced, of which 834 were successful. HCPS monitored all of these bills and submitted testimony on over 100 bills.

The General Assembly considered legislation in the policy areas of student assessments, student free speech, student health, private school scholarships, cyber-bullying policy updates as well as issues pertaining to the Open Meetings Act, labor, teacher pension and retirement, prevailing wage, worker’s compensation and changes local to boards of education. However, it should be noted that many measures that would have been unfunded mandates such as school bus seat belts and construction procurement restrictions did not see passage in this session.

State Budget

The FY 2017 State Budget (SB 190) provides total direct aid for the operation of the 24 local school systems totals more than \$5.5 billion. The FY 2017 increase in direct aid to local school systems is approximately \$114 million; with an additional increase of \$38 million in retirement funding. The inflation factor which applies to state aid for education is 0.015 percent, and therefore the \$114 million increase in funding is attributable to the additional \$68 million in now mandated funding for the GCEI and increases in student enrollment. Harford County is estimated to receive \$198,420,445 in State funding as follows:

Foundation Program	\$135,401,612
Total Transportation Grants	12,549,134
Compensatory Education	33,873,424
Limited English Proficient	1,670,267
Special Education	12,565,009
Net Taxable Income Adjustment	2,360,000
Total	\$198,420,445

The State Budget was not without its usual quirks as the State Budget restricts a large package of \$80 million in restricted funds of which \$25 million pertains to education funding. The Budget Committees once again “fenced” in money that requires the Governor to transfer all, or none, of the restricted funds to their designated purposes. Given this, the \$25 million in education funding includes \$19 million for teacher retirement costs (only rate increases) and \$6.1 million for the Aging Schools Program. For HCPS this equates of a loss of \$4,558.00 in teacher retirement rate increases and \$217,379.00 in Aging Schools funds if not released by Governor Hogan.

The State Budget Bill was also amended in the conference committee to establish the \$5 million *Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST)* Program to provide scholarships for students who are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program to attend eligible nonpublic schools. To be eligible to participate in the BOOST program, a nonpublic school must participate in the Aid to Non-Public Schools Program for textbooks and computer hardware and software administered by MSDE; and comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Title 20, Subtitle 6 of the State Government Article, and not discriminate in student admissions the basis of race, color, national origin, or sexual orientation. However, the amount of a scholarship award, or voucher, may not exceed the lesser of the tuition of the nonpublic school or the statewide average per pupil expenditure by local education agencies, as calculated by MSDE.

Capital Budget

The Capital Budget (SB 191) is also enacted which provided \$280 million in school construction funding. Separate legislation (SB 379) provides \$4.6 million for the Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) Program. The Operating Budget (SB 190) includes \$61.1 million for the Aging Schools Program; however this funding may only be released at the Governor’s discretion. In addition, \$3.5 million is provided for the Nonpublic Aging Schools Program.

Of particular interest is a conference committee amendment (adopted) to the Capital Budget that added language to the Public School Construction Program authorization to specify that Public School Construction Program funds may only be used for expenses eligible under the program on January 1, 2016 (which excludes the purchase of window air conditioning units) and clarifies that the local school system appeals held by the Interagency Committee on School Construction on the preliminary recommendations for fiscal 2018 public school construction allocations in December 2016 are not subject to further appeal. This means basically doing away with the annual “Beg-a-Thon,” to the Board of Public Works (BPW) in January. It should be noted that both the Governor and Comptroller have made it clear they plan to ignore the directive and several school systems are scheduled to go before the BPW May 11, 2016 in regard to the air conditioning units.

Joint Chairmen’s Report

Every year at the end of the legislative session, the Committee Chairs of the Senate Budget and Taxation and House Appropriations Committees issue a voluminous report containing specific reporting requirements and contingencies on funding provided

in the State Operating and Capital budgets. Education related items included in the Joint Chairmen's Report for the 2016 Session of the Maryland General Assembly include:

- Require MSDE to submit a report by November 1, 2016, on school counselor certification to provide college and career counseling.
- Require MSDE to submit a report by December 1, 2016, on recommendations for improving teacher preparation and retention.
- Require Governor's Office for Children to submit a report on out-of-home placements by December 15, 2016.
- Requires Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to submit certifications regarding conduct of police in schools by November 1, 2016.
- Require MSDE to report by November 1, 2016 on funding for special education funding for prekindergarten.
- Restricts expenditure of funds until IAC submits fiscal 2015 and 2016 annual maintenance reports by October 1, 2016.

Bill Signings

Bill signings, which take place in the State House, are scheduled on: April 26, 2016 – 10:30 AM; May 10, 2016 – 10:30 AM; and May 19, 2016 – 10:30 AM. Bills to be signed are posted on the Governor's website in advance of the signing ceremonies. On April 12th the day after the legislative session ended, the Governor held a bill signing ceremony and those are reflected below. Also those bills that saw passage without the Governor's signature are also listed below (those bills that had to be acted upon within 6 days of presentation to the Governor during the legislative session).

**2016 Maryland General Assembly
BILL POSITIONS**

The following represent those positions taken by Harford County Public Schools. Over 100 HCPS Positions were submitted to 2016 General Assembly Committees for consideration. The following represents those position statements and the final outcome of the Bills.

BILL NUMBER	TITLE	POSITION	FINAL OUTCOME
SB 7	Prevailing Wage Law - Applicability - Elementary and Secondary School Construction	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This Bill would make the prevailing wage law apply to all elementary and secondary school construction instead of excluding elementary or secondary school for which less than 25% of the money used for construction is State money.</p>	 FAILED Prevailing wage creates an increase in the amount school systems must pay for school construction. Given the high demand and backlog for school construction in the State, increased costs, such as those created by this bill, will exacerbate this problem.
SB 65	Primary and Secondary Education-Health and Safety-Sugar-Free Schools Act	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires each local board of education to develop a plan for reducing students' total sugar intake per school meal by August 1, 2017, based on recommendations from the American Heart Association and the workgroup established by each local board of education.</p>	 FAILED Federal law and regulations address nutritional markers, including total calorie, protein and fat. School meals are not high in sugars.
SB 71/HB 771	Public Schools - Administration of Diabetes Care Services - Guidelines	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), to establish guidelines for public schools regarding the administration of health care services to students with diabetes</p>	 PENDING SIGNATURE As introduced, this bill would have compromised student safety by

		and provide specified technical assistance to schools to implement the guidelines. Effective July 1, 2016.	requiring teachers to volunteer to give insulin to students and financial burden to school systems
SB 83	Public Safety - School Safety Enforcement Fund	<p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORTED</p> <p>Renames the School Bus Safety Enforcement Fund to be the School Safety Enforcement Fund. The bill expands the allowable uses of the fund to include enhancements to school safety in addition to the current purpose of addressing the problem of drivers illegally failing to stop for school vehicles; it likewise expands eligibility to receive grants from the fund to local boards of education The bill will also open the grant to applications from school boards and would lift the existing \$35,000 cap on individual grant applications. Effective Date October 1, 2016.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">PENDING SIGNATURE</p> <p>Expands availability to local boards to apply for funds and use them not only for school safety, but increased public awareness. HCPS Transportation has worked with the Maryland State Police and Harford Sheriff's office to apply for grants to support the securing of funds to specifically target school bus red light runners, This effort has been successful and the need is ongoing,</p>
SB 95	Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning - Adult Education and Literacy Services - Revisions	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>This departmental bill defines adult education and the purpose of adult education and literacy services. The bill repeals the now-defunct Workforce Creation and Adult Education Transition Council and obsolete authority for county boards of education to establish and maintain day and evening schools for adults. The bill also clarifies provisions relating to adult education and literacy services and replaces references to the Maryland Adult External High School Program established for Maryland citizens with references to the National External Diploma Program. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">PENDING SIGNATURE</p> <p>FYI</p>

SB 103/HB 446	State Government - Maryland Youth Advisory Council - Revisions	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>This bill alters the membership of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council. The bill also expands the council’s duties and alters the process for appointing members to the council. The bill reduces, from 57 to 24, the membership of the council and repeals the requirement for the council to have a member from the House of Delegates and the Senate. The bill alters the factors that must be considered when appointing or nominating members to include the consideration of youths who are involved in established public and private youth councils and youth empowerment organizations in the State, including (1) service learning and leadership programs; (2) teen court programs; (3) foster care; (4) student councils; (5) juvenile service programs; and (6) transitional programs. Existing requirements to consider geographic and demographic diversity of the State, diversity in education, youth with disabilities, and transitional youths continue, as specified. The bill also establishes that a member who represents an established public or private youth council or youth empowerment organization in the State must represent the views of the council or organization. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">PENDING SIGNATURE</p> <p>FYI</p>
SB 155/HB 492	Public Bodies - Use and Retention of E-Mail - Requirements	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires each “public body” to retain “government e-mail” for a minimum of seven years or permanently if the email was sent or received by a senior employee.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">FAILED</p> <p>Cost to HCPS would be \$1 million plus \$250,000 annually. Unfunded mandate</p>
SB 183	School Vehicles-Seat Belts-Requirements	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires every school vehicle registered in the State to be equipped with seat belts for every seat on the school vehicle.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">FAILED</p> <p>\$4.5 million fiscal impact to HCPS. Also concerns on rescue or evacuation efforts for small children.</p>

SB 224/HB 39	Education-Orange Ribbon for Health School Hours-Establishment	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill establishes an Orange Ribbon for Healthy School Hours certification in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) beginning in the 2017-2018 school years. To receive Orange Ribbon certification, a local school system may not have (1) an elementary school requiring a student to be in class before 8:00 a.m. and board a school bus before 7:00 a.m. and (2) a middle or high school requiring a student to be in class before 8:30 a.m. and board a school bus before 7:30 a.m. The program is optional. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">PENDING SIGNATURE</p> <p>Policy and Budget issues should be in cooperation with community. While not specifically mandating new parameters or changes to start times, the bill does establish a new state program to promote a major shift in a policy area that should be at discretion of each local board of education.</p>
SB 267/HB 955	Public Schools - Voluntary Nonsectarian Prayer at School-Sponsored Student Events	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires a local board of education to allow nonsectarian student-initiated voluntary prayer during mandatory and voluntary school-sponsored student events, including assemblies, athletic events, graduation and commencement ceremonies, and any other school-sponsored student event.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">FAILED</p> <p>Constitutional concerns. Various court cases and would lead to potential lawsuits.</p>
SB 269/HB 626	Education - Public School Holidays - Veterans' Day	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill designates Veterans' Day as a public school holiday.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">FAILED</p> <p>Appreciate the intent of the Bill, but more meaningful for Veterans to have a participatory role in the school on this day specifically.</p>
SB 310/HB 245	Child Abuse and Neglect - Failure to Report	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>This bill requires that if an agency is participating in a child abuse or neglect investigation and has substantial grounds to believe that a worker has knowingly failed to make a required report of suspected abuse or neglect, it must file a complaint with the worker's licensing board, law enforcement agency, county board of education, or other agency, institution, or</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">PENDING SIGNATURE</p> <p>FYI</p>

		licensed facility, as appropriate, at which the worker is employed. The bill takes effect October 1, 2016.	
SB 317/HB 1463	Coordinating Council for Juvenile Services Educational Programs - Membership	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>This bill alters the terms and membership of the Coordinating Council for Juvenile Services Educational Programs. The bill establishes that the county superintendent is to be appointed by PSSAM, and adds other members to include one member from MABE and a resident in seven specified counties (Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's to be appointed by the Governor in consultation with the county executive or mayor of the county and City of Baltimore, and two residents appointed by the Governor. The bill takes effect October 1, 2016.</p>	 SB 317 APPROVED WITHOUT SIGNATURE- CHAPTER 63 FYI
SB 325	Juvenile Services Education - Modifications	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill alters the method for determining the reimbursement that county boards of education must provide to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for eligible individuals who are served under the Juvenile Services Education Program (JSEP). Using this same method, the State must provide funding to MSDE for eligible individuals served by JSEP who were not included in a county's annual public school full-time equivalent enrollment (FTE)</p>	 FAILED Unfunded Mandate as new funding formula would have increased HCPS payments by \$122,000 and \$7.3 million statewide to local school systems.
SB 369/HB 1095	Education - Prekindergarten Programs - Notification of Eligibility by Local Departments of Social Services	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>This bill requires local departments of social services and local health departments to provide a parent or guardian who applies for economic services with an oral and written notice that their child may be eligible for publicly funded prekindergarten programs if the parent or guardian has a child who will be four years old on September 1 of the next academic year. The notice must include contact information for the enrollment office of the local school system and the Division of Early Childhood</p>	 SB 369 Approved by the Governor - Chapter 67 Under this Bill income eligible families will receive a proof of eligibility statement from the department of social services for use when applying to public prekindergarten programs. This

		Development in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Annually by December 1, each local department of social services and local health department must report to the General Assembly on the number of parents who were given notification and subsequently enrolled their child in a publicly funded prekindergarten program. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.	will make providing the needed documentation for families wishing to enroll their child in public prekindergarten easier for families and school staff.
SB 373/HB 537	Teachers' Retirement and Pension Systems - Reemployment of Retirees - Clarification	NO POSITION This bill clarifies that a local school superintendent or the Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) may hire no more than a combined total of five retirees of the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) and Teachers' Pension System (TPS) to work in any position at any school without the teachers being subject to a reduced retirement allowance. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.	 PENDING SIGNATURE Clarifying Language
SB 376/HB 464	Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) Schools Act of 2016	NO POSITION Authorizes state per pupil funding for 2 P-TECH schools in Baltimore City to open in SY 2016/2017. Budget authorizes planning funding for 6 P-TECH schools at \$100,000 per school: 2 in Baltimore City for SY 2016/2017 and the following 4 for SY 2017/2018; 2 in Prince George's, 1 in Western Maryland and 1 on the Eastern Shore. The bill takes effect June 1, 2016.	 PENDING SIGNATURE HCPS did not qualify
SB 395	Ethics – State Ethics Commission Authority over Local Government Conflict of Interest and Financial Disclosure Modifications	NO POSITION This bill requires local government and school board modifications to conflict of interest and financial disclosure provisions of State law to be done in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Ethics Commission and be consistent with the intent of the Maryland Public Ethics law. The bill also clarifies that local government modifications to the financial disclosure provision are authorized rather than mandatory. The bill takes effect October 1, 2016.	 PENDING SIGNATURE FYI

SB 407/HB 141	Education - Education Accountability Program - Limits on Testing	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt regulations that limit the amount of time that may be devoted to federal, State, and locally mandated tests for each grade to 2% of the minimum required annual instructional hours. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	 FAILED Providing an artificial cap on testing takes away ability of school sytm to detrmine best approach for assessing students and detrmining student progress and learning.
SB 421/HB 86	Special Education - Translations of Individualized Education Programs or Individualized Family Service Plans - Native Language	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill authorizes the parents of a child with a completed individualized education program (IEP) or individualized family service plan (IFSP) to request that the IEP or IFSP be translated into the parents' native language, if that language is spoken by more than 1% of students in the local school system. School personnel must provide the parents with the translated document within 30 days after the date of the request. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	 PENDING SIGNATURE Currently MSDE providees a template in 17 languages for IEPs and IFSPs to help parents. Also, school districts currently provide interpreter services to enable non-English speaking parents to participate and understand. In addition the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) also requires necessary actions be taken. Translation costs average around \$1,014 per student.
SB 455/HB 285	State Education Aid - Real Property Valuation - Tax Increment Financing	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>As introduced, the bill would alter the local wealth calculation used to allocate major State education aid programs for local school systems.</p> <p>AS AMENDED prevents any education funding decreases, and to sunset the bill after two years and require the subject to be considered by The Study of Adequacy of Funding for Education in the State of Maryland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes state grants, for FY 2018 and 2019, to 	 PENDING SIGNATURE This bill which would have not only provided an increase in funding for jurisdictions that use tax-increment financing, but would have also resulted in an unintended decrease in education funding for 19 jurisdictions.

		<p>counties that establish a tax increment financing (TIF) development district after May 1, 2016, and qualify for State disparity grant funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For fiscal 2018 and 2019, using net taxable income (NTI) based on tax returns filed on or before November 1, State aid (excluding NTI grants) must be calculated once using the assessed valuation of real property as defined by current law and again using that same valuation as reduced by the calculated tax increment due to the TIF district for each eligible county. • If the amount of State aid calculated as reduced by the tax increment is greater than the amount of State aid calculated without excluding the tax increment, the difference is provided as a grant to the county board of education. • States legislative intent that the adequacy of the education funding study considers the impact of economic development incentives in low-wealth counties on State education aid and makes recommendations on specified topics. <p>The bill takes effect June 1, 2016.</p> <p>In the interim report, <i>Analysis of School Finance Equity and Local Wealth Measures in Maryland</i>, consultants assess Maryland’s school finance equity under current school funding formulas and consider alternative wealth measures for distribution of state aid to local school districts. As part of this analysis, consultants reviewed tax increment financing and school funding in Maryland. The analysis found that if Maryland allowed districts to reduce their fiscal capacity amount by the full valuation of property exempted for economic development purposes, it could create an incentive to over-utilize these measures at the expense of the rest of the state. The study team recommended Maryland allow only a portion of a Tax Increment</p>	<p>TIF (Tax Increment Financing) related Bill which alters local wealth calculation. As written, HCPS would lose funding of approx. \$1 million,</p>
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		Financing (TIF) tax-exemption be used to reduce the property wealth of a school district	
SB 461/HB 1433	Education - Prekindergarten Students – Funding	<p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT with Amendments</p> <p>Establishes prekindergarten funding for either part time or full time prekindergarten students who are eligible for those families whose income is at or below 185% of federal poverty guidelines.</p>	 FAILED <p>The bill as introduced was amended to ensure that the funding of pre-kindergarten students does not negatively impact school district funding under the relative wealth formulas used to calculate education aid.</p> <p>Seven counties (Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington) incur funding reductions in excess of \$200,000 in fiscal 2018.</p>
SB 472/HB 580	Labor and Employment - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires an employer (including local government) with more than nine employees to have a sick and safe leave policy under which an employee (who regularly works 8 or more hours per week) earns at least 1 hour of paid sick and safe leave, at the same rate as the employee normally earns, for every 30 hours an employee works.</p>	 FAILED <p>Staff working below .5 FTE is typically considered to be substitutes. A substitute receives an invitation to work and has the ability to accept or reject the assignment based upon her/his needs and interest. Another class of school employees is emergency (seasonal) coaches.</p>
SB 493/HB 1410	Teacher Induction, Retention, and Advancement Act of 2016	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>As AMENDED this bill establishes a <u>Teacher Induction, Retention, and Advancement Pilot Program</u> for:</p>	 PENDING SIGNATURE <p>While this bill is well meaning, it has vast fiscal and logistical</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a voluntary Teacher Induction, Retention, and Advancement Program for first-year teachers who participate in the program to be afforded at least 20% more time than other teachers to be spent on mentoring, peer observation, assistance with planning, or other preparation activities. • Costs for the Program to be borne 80% by the State and 20% by the local board of education. • Mandatory appropriation of \$5 million annually for the Program through FY 2022 • Increases the maximum State matching stipend for teachers who hold National Board Certification (NBC) from \$2,000 to \$4,000 • Establishes a pilot teacher incentive grant program of up to \$1,500 in Anne Arundel county for teachers in certain economically disadvantaged schools for academic years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 • Required funding for the stipends in the budget for FY 2017 through FY 2019. • MSDE must convene a workgroup composed of stakeholders from primary and secondary education, higher education, and other education policy experts to determine how to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recruit, retain, and promote quality teachers at all levels of education in the State; incorporate and interweave the principles of NBC with the Advanced Professional Certificate, Master of Education programs, and other teacher preparation programs; • make the teacher recertification process more valuable, including an exploration of how to link recertification to career ladders and content or high- 	<p>implications. We currently offer a comprehensive teacher induction program for all our new teachers as required by COMAR.</p> <p>For example, the requirement that first year teachers be afforded at least 20% more time than other teachers during the academic week to be spent on mentoring, peer observation, assistance with planning or other preparation activities requires additional staff to cover the time these teachers would not be instructing students.</p>
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		<p>need area specializations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • link loan forgiveness to teaching in high-need schools; and incorporate induction best practices into professional eligibility certificates; • existing State laws and regulations impact teacher recruitment, retention, and promotion for specified areas; and • evaluate whether the stipend for specified Anne Arundel County Public Schools teachers was effective in retaining effective teachers in schools with a critical mass of economically disadvantaged students • Workgroup must make recommendations regarding; its findings and legislative changes that will ensure that teacher preparation academics, as authorized under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, will be of the highest quality and rigor if they are implemented in Maryland, and the individuals that participate in these academies will be fully prepared and trained to be in a classroom in Maryland; • a coordinated statewide strategy for recruiting, retaining, and promoting quality teachers at all levels of education by specified stakeholders; and • the best methods of incentivizing effective teachers to choose to teach in low-performing schools and schools with a critical mass of economically disadvantaged students in light of federal regulations that require the equitable distribution of effective teachers. <p>The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	
<p>SB 494/HB 713</p>	<p>State Department of Education - Community-Partnered School</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> PENDING SIGNATURE</p>

	Behavioral Health Services Programs - Reporting System and Report (School Behavioral Health Accountability Act)	(MSDE), in consultation with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), local boards of education, and other interested stakeholders, as determined by MSDE, to develop and implement a standardized reporting system to determine the effectiveness of community-partnered school behavioral health service programs. The standardized reporting system must use measures that collect data on the outcomes of students who receive behavioral health services, including a student's academic, behavioral, social, and emotional functioning and progress. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.	While we support the cause of accountability regarding community-partnered school behavioral health services programs the Bill raises concerns about violating privacy rights of students. Once we begin collecting data and generating reports, this information becomes accessible to others (through Public Information Act requests). In many instances the raw numbers are very low, meaning the students would be easily identifiable even if we released the data without student identifiers. Parents should not be put in the position of having to consent to the release of mental health treatment outcomes by the school system, and asking parents to do so may dissuade them from accessing the services.
SB 515/HB 330	County Boards of Education - Procurements for Construction or Repair of School Projects	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires procurements by local school boards for construction and repairs valued at more than \$25,000 to use the competitive bidding process required for most other types of procurement. The bill also defines commodities and goods that are subject to competitive bidding by local school boards under certain provisions of current law.</p>	 <p>FAILED</p> <p>The use of intergovernmental cooperative purchasing has saved time and money spent on the procurement process, accelerated project completion timelines, and improved work quality. Preventing this would ultimately result in increased costs.</p>

SB 520/ HB 756	County Boards of Education - School Buses - Motor Fuel Tax Exemption and Refund Washington County Board of Education - Motor Fuel Tax Refund	<p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORTED with Amendment to include Harford County Public Schools</p> <p>The bill exempts from the motor fuel tax, motor fuel that is purchased by a county board or a school bus contractor under contract with a county board of education to transport students by a school bus operator for Type I school vehicles. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">PENDING SIGNATURE</p> <p>Type 2 school buses were not included in amended bill and will need to request technical amendment next year.</p>
SB 528/ HB 250	General Provisions - Open Meetings Act - Required Training and Certificate of Compliance	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires each employee, official, or member of a public body to complete a specified class on the requirements of the Open Meetings Act within 30 days of employment or membership unless the individual received the training within the preceding four years.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">FAILED</p> <p>Would require 5,000 HCPS employees to undergo the training which is unrealistic. We do support that members of agency be trained and a limited number of employees.</p>
SB 529/ HB 217	Open Meetings Act - Requirements for Providing Agendas	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>As amended, the bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires a public body, before meeting in open session, to make available to the public an agenda: (1) containing known items of business or topics to be discussed at the portion of the meeting that is open; and (2) indicating whether the public body expects to close any portion of the meeting • Clarifies that the public body is not required to make available any information in the agenda regarding the subject matter of the portion of the meeting that will be closed • Requires the public body to either make the agenda available: (1) when the public body gives notice of the meeting; or (2) as soon as practicable after the agenda has been determined but no later than 24 hours before 	 <p style="text-align: center;">PENDING SIGNATURE</p> <p>Appears to have effect of precluding a board agenda, once published, from being changed at the time of the board meeting. This reduces flexibility of a public body to conduct public business.</p>

		<p>the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides that the public body may make an agenda available to the public either using a method authorized for giving notice or through another method • For a meeting where an agenda could not be provided beforehand because the meeting was in response to an emergency, natural disaster, or any other unanticipated situation, requires the public body to make available on request an agenda of the meeting within a reasonable time after the meeting occurs • Provides that nothing in the bill may be construed to prevent a public body from altering the agenda of a meeting after the agenda has been made available to the public. <p>The bill takes effect October 1, 2016.</p>	
<p>SB 533/HB 412</p>	<p>Education - Administration of Assessments - Provision of Information</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>As introduced this Bill required each county board of education to provide information relating to each assessment administered in a local school system that includes the title, purpose, grade level tested, subject area, testing window, time to complete, loss of instruction time, and accommodations for students with special needs; requiring this information to be updated annually, posted online, and included in the county board's comprehensive master plan updates.</p> <p>As <u>AMENDED</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires a local board of education to provide the following information for each assessment administered in a local school system by Oct. 15 on the website and in the master plan each year: • the title of the assessment; • the purpose of the assessment; • whether the assessment is mandated by a local, State, or 	<p style="text-align: center;"> PENDING SIGNATURE</p> <p>The requirements of this bill would require additional information to be published and many of the proposed categories do not have common definitions and could cause more confusion than clarity to the public. For example, the proposed Bill would require districts to identify the grade level to which the test is administered. For high school courses, this would be confusing as many courses are not grade specific.</p> <p>The requirement that school</p>

		<p>federal entity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the grade level or subject area, as appropriate, to which the test is administered; the testing window of the assessment; and whether accommodations are available for students with special needs and what the accommodations are. Extends the time by which MSDE has to develop a State-specific assessments in specified core content areas (i.e., social studies) by two years, from the 2016-2017 school year to the 2018-2019 school year. <p>The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	<p>systems identify what accommodations are provided for each assessment is also problematic as accommodations are provided based upon individual students not upon an assessment.</p> <p>Assessments are a constant part of the teaching and learning cycle and should be part of instruction.</p>
SB 575	County Boards of Education - Limit on Liability	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill increases the liability limit on a county board of education and the minimum amount of liability coverage a county board of education must maintain from \$100,000 to \$400,000. The bill also makes a corresponding change to the State Board of Education's existing statutory requirement to establish standards for these comprehensive liability insurance policies. The bill applies prospectively to causes of action on or after the bill's October 1, 2016 effective date.</p>	 PENDING SIGNATURE <p>This bill basically quadruples the potential liability exposure of all local boards of education. A 300% increase will have a negative fiscal impact.</p>
SB 584/HB 688	Preschool Development Grants - Expansion Grants - Required State Funding	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>This bill requires the Governor, in each fiscal year in which the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) receives an expansion grant through the federal Preschool Development Grant Program, to include an appropriation of State funds equal to the amount that the State committed to fund as the state match in its application to the U.S. Department of Education. The appropriation is in addition to the amount required under current law for the State Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program.</p> <p>The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	 PENDING SIGNATURE <p>FYI</p>

SB 582/HB 115	Education - Robotics Grant Program - Establishment	<p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORTED</p> <p>This bill establishes a Robotics Grant Program to provide grants to public schools in the State to support and expand existing robotics programs. A school is eligible to receive a grant through the program if the school is associated with an existing nonprofit robotics club or has an existing robotics program or club. The Governor must appropriate at least \$250,000 in the annual State budget for the program. The Maryland State Department of Education must implement and administer the program and may adopt regulations to implement provisions of the bill. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">PENDING SIGNATURE</p> <p>HCPS has implemented several Robotics clubs after school, many of them funded through Department of Defense Education Activity grants. However, we have found, through program evaluation, that it is difficult to offer an after school Robotics program without the appropriate resources required for staffing support.</p>
SB 595	Education - Middle School Students - Awarding of Credit	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>This bill requires a local board of education to award credit to a middle school student for any course for which a high school student would be awarded credit if the middle school student meets the same requirements as the high school student. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">PENDING SIGNATURE</p> <p>This Bill allows students to be dually enrolled in public institutions of higher education after they complete 5th grade.</p>
SB 598/HB 823	General Provisions - Open Meetings Act - Enforcement and Training	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This Bill would authorize the State Open Meetings Law Compliance Board to issue an order that requires the public body to take corrective action; and impose an appropriate civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$500 for each violation. An individual shall complete the training required within 90 days after the individual becomes an employee, official, or a member of a public body. The intent is that an individual who is an employee, an official, or a member of a public body on the effective date of this Act shall comply on or before September</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">FAILED</p> <p>HCPS believes the proposals in this Bill are unrealistic and, in many respects, do not have a clear connection, if any, to the outcome sought by the proposals, presumably, compliance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA). Additionally, the requirement to</p>

		30, 2017.	train of all employees of a public agency, such as a local board of education, regarding the OMA, would require 5,000 plus employees of Harford County Public Schools to undergo the training. This would involve substantial time and resources and to what purpose as this would include teachers, mentors, inclusion helpers, custodians, nurses, therapists who have not involvement in Board meetings.
SB 671/HB 402	Public Information Act - Personnel and Investigatory Records - Formal Complaints Against Public Employees	NO POSITION This bill expands the definition of “person of interest” under the PIA to include, for record requests related to a formal complaint made against a governmental unit or an employee of the unit, a complainant. The bill also specifies that a record related to a formal complaint of job-related misconduct made against a public employee, including an investigation record, a hearing record, or a disciplinary decision, is not a personnel record under the PIA.	 FAILED Although well intentioned, venues already exist for citizenbs who wish to pursue a remedy beyond an internal agency review.
SB 674/HB 934	Teachers' Retirement and Pension System - Employer Contribution for Local Employees	SUPPORTED This bill would have provided a method for addressing a shortfall in funding required to meet the portion of Maryland state teacher pension costs that exceed anticipated costs. According to current estimates, the actual normal costs of teacher pensions in fiscal year 2017 are approximately \$30 million more than the amount that local school boards were required to provide in fiscal 2016 according to cost-shifting legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2012.	 FAILED While neither one of these bills were advanced, the General Assembly included \$19 million in the budget for teacher pension cost increases in fiscal year 2017. This amount accounts for the portion of the increase that is due to variables

			<p>outside the control of local school boards. The Governor must now approve the funding.</p> <p>However, the Budget has fenced in funds in the Rainy Day Fund (State Reserve) to address the rate increase only. It is at the discretion of the Governor in releasing the funds.</p>
SB 706/HB 1343	Maryland Education Credit	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill creates a State income tax credit for 60% of the contributions made by a business entity or nonprofit organization to a student assistance organization that provides specified financial assistance to students attending eligible nonpublic preK programs and K-12 schools or to support innovative educational programs for students at eligible public schools. A student assistance organization also includes a State-aided educational institution. The amount of credits that the Department of Commerce can award in each year cannot exceed the amount of money appropriated to a reserve fund established by the bill.</p>	<p> FAILED</p> <p>The State of Maryland has a constitutional obligation to support public education and provide for a system of free appropriate public education. Moreover, the General Assembly demands fiscal and academic performance accountability from its public schools. Private schools do not have the same accountability to the public as our public school system and does not participate in state assessments.</p>
SB 711/HB 721	Prevailing Wage Rates Reform Act of 2016	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill expands the applicability of the State's prevailing wage laws, alters the methods by which State prevailing wage rates are determined, and stiffens penalty provisions for violations of various aspects of the State's prevailing wage statute.</p>	<p> FAILED</p> <p>Increases construction project costs</p>
SB 755/HB 1325	State Department of Education - Breakfast	<p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORTED</p> <p>This bill makes the State responsible for the student share of the</p>	<p> FAILED</p>

	and Lunch Programs - Funding (Free School Meals for Students From Low- and Middle-Income Families Act)	costs of (1) reduced-price breakfasts provided under the federal School Breakfast Program and (2) reduced-price lunches provided under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).	The purpose is to increase the participation rate of Reduced Price students in the program, thus making certain all children are able to participate in the School Meals Programs
SB 756/HB 1360	Primary and Secondary Education - Breakfast Program - School Requirements (Breakfast After the Bell Act)	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>This bill establishes a Breakfast After the Bell Program in the State authorizing public schools with a high concentration of low-income students to offer a free breakfast to all students after the first bell of each school day. A public school that chooses to participate in the program must participate for an entire school year, but it is not required to participate in subsequent years.</p>	 FAILED School systems are opposing this Bill as it disrupts school schedules; however this would also increase participation in the program and would be a benefit. On the other hand, the disruption to the school day may cause issues. Harford County Public Schools would not be affected as we already have classroom breakfast.
SB 764	Education - Student Journalists - Freedom of Speech and Freedom of the Press	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>AS AMENDED authorizes student journalists at public schools and public institutions of higher education to exercise freedom of speech and freedom of the press in school-sponsored media.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows a student journalist in a public elementary or secondary school or a public institution of higher education to exercise freedom of speech and freedom of the press in school-sponsored media, subject to restrictions in the bill. • Establishes that a student journalist is responsible for determining the news, opinion, feature, and advertising content of school-sponsored media, also subject to specified restrictions. • Each county board of education and public institution of 	 PENDING SIGNATURE Student journalists and their work should be subject to review and censorship when appropriate.

		<p>higher education must develop a written policy regarding the bill's requirements, which may include limits on language that may be defined as profane, harassing, threatening, or intimidating</p> <p>The bill takes effect October 1, 2016.</p>	
SB 767/HH 1349	Education - Beginning of School Year - After Labor Day	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires local school systems in the State to establish a post-Labor Day start date for students, including students in publicly funded prekindergarten programs, beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.</p>	 FAILED School calendars should be built based on the needs of the local community and school system.
SB 770/HH 1297	Education - Public High Schools - Agriculture Science	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>AS AMENDED the Bill <u>encourages</u> each county board of education, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, to implement an agriculture science curriculum in at least one public high school in the local school system or career and technology education center in the county. The bill takes effect October 1, 2016.</p>	 PENDING SIGNATURE HCPS already complies with this bill. However, the program of studies should be developed as whole and not piecemeal segments into the curriculum.
SB 781/HH 708	Education - Maryland Seal of Biliteracy Act - Establishment	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>This bill establishes a Maryland Seal of Biliteracy Program to recognize public high school graduates, beginning with the graduating class of 2017, who have attained proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing one or more languages in addition to English. The purpose of the program is to promote linguistic proficiency and cultural literacy in one or more languages in addition to English and to provide recognition of the attainment of those skills by affixing a Seal of Biliteracy to the student's diploma or transcript at graduation. Participation in the program by a local school system is voluntary; however, if a local school system chooses to participate, an individual school may not opt out. The State Board of Education must adopt regulations to</p>	 PENDING SIGNATURE While the accomplishment of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing a language in addition to English is impressive and admirable this may open the door for other seals to be added to a student's diploma reflecting other important accomplishments of a student graduate. However, the Bill is voluntary so a school system can opt out.

		implement the program. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.	
SB 794/HB 657	Education - Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Assessments - Administration	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>AS AMENDED the bill requires a statewide kindergarten assessment that is administered to measure school readiness to be limited to a representative sample, as determined by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), of kindergarten students from within each local school system. A principal and a teacher, who are in mutual agreement, or a local board of education, may administer a statewide kindergarten assessment with the purpose of measuring school readiness if (1) the assessment is completed on or before October 1 and (2) the aggregate results are returned within 45 days after administration of the assessment. The bill also prohibits a statewide kindergarten assessment from being administered to an enrolled prekindergarten student unless it is being administered by a school psychologist or other school-based professional who intends to use the results in order to identify a disability. MSDE must adopt regulations to implement the requirements of the bill. It is the intent of the General Assembly that a teacher who administers a statewide kindergarten assessment be paid for the time worked in accordance with a collective bargaining agreement. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">PENDING SIGNATURE</p> <p>Purpose of test is to measure school readiness and provides teachers with strengths and needs of students.</p>
SB 786/HB 397	Education - Assessments - Best Practices in the Administration of Assessments	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to develop a set of best practices that MSDE and local school systems must consider when deciding whether to administer an assessment or a test to students. The best practices developed must include specified elements and follow specified principles. In order to ensure conformity with the best practices developed under the bill, MSDE must conduct an audit of all State-mandated assessments that are administered in the State, and each local school system must conduct an audit of all locally</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">FAILED</p> <p>The Bill increases the state's reach into local assessment practices and policies. Many of the practices included reflect commonly accepted best practices in assessment considerations. However, this Bill represents an encroachment on local decision</p>

		mandated assessments that are administered in the local school system. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.	making processes regarding assessment policies and practices.
SB 832/HB 1228	Education - Grounds for Discipline	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill allows a local educator to request binding arbitration instead of a hearing before the county board of education within 10 days of being notified that the individual is subject to suspension or dismissal based on charges of immorality, misconduct in office, insubordination, incompetency, or willful neglect of duty. If the individual's request for a hearing does not explicitly request arbitration, it is considered a request for a hearing before the county board of education.</p>	 FAILED Removes the authority from the local board of education and transfers it to an arbitrator if so requested by the employee. Such a transfer would adversely impact the ability of a local board to implement discipline consistent with the best interests of students in the county.
SB 868/HB 1178	Primary and Secondary Education - Immunizations of Children Entering School	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>Requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in cooperation with the State Board of Education and the Statewide Advisory Commission on Immunizations, to adopt regulations requiring that before a child enters ninth grade, the child has received a specified number of doses of human papillomavirus vaccine.</p>	 FAILED Both measures were withdrawn by Sponsors and were never heard in a committee.
SB 901	Public and Nonpublic Schools - Classwork and Assessment Involving Live and Dead Animals - Student Right of Refusal	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill allows a student in a public or nonpublic school to refuse to participate in or observe, in whole or in part, classwork or an assessment that includes specified actions (including dissection) conducted on a live or dead animal or the severed part of a dead animal. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must adopt regulations, and a nonpublic school may establish a policy, to implement the bill.</p>	 FAILED HCPS believes this Bill is an unnecessary intrusion on local school system's curriculum, policy, and administrative decisions. We already have these accommodations in place and use alternative methods for students to accomplish relatively the same outcome when dead animals are the focus of the lab activity.

<p>SB 905/HB 999</p>	<p>Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORTED</p> <p>This bill establishes the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. The commission must review the findings of the study on adequacy of funding for education, due on December 1, 2016, and related studies, and provide recommendations on preparing students in the State to meet specified objectives. The bill takes effect June 1, 2016.</p>	<p> PENDING SIGNATURE This Commission will be critical to begin a serious and yet thoughtful examination of the resulting studies and work of the Adequacy Study and begin a thorough evaluation of those reports already issued as well as the final reports due to begin translating the many recommendations into legislative proposals for comprehensive funding reforms to State education funding formulas.</p>
<p>SB 909/HB 1488</p>	<p>Service, Stipends, and Scholarships - Maryland Corps Program - Established</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>This bill establishes the Maryland Corps Program to provide at least 100 young people with meaningful service opportunities. It also establishes the Maryland Corps Program Fund to, among other things; provide participants with stipends of up to \$15,000 and scholarships of \$6,000 toward a vocational certificate, associate's degree, or bachelor's degree at specified Maryland postsecondary institutions. Annual funding for the program is as provided for annually in the State budget. The bill takes effect June 1, 2016.</p>	<p> PENDING SIGNATURE Individuals are eligible to participate in Maryland Corps if they: • are between the ages of 17 and 23; • are eligible for in-state tuition; • have obtained a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma; and • have not obtained a vocational certificate, associate's degree, or bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education.</p>
<p>SB 910/HB 1399</p>	<p>Maryland Education Development Collaborative</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>Establishes the Maryland Education Development Collaborative (EDCO). EDCO is managed by an executive board and must</p>	<p> PENDING SIGNATURE</p>

		<p>employ an executive director. Board of Directors includes the State Superintendent, Secretary of Commerce, Senate and House member, several stakeholder groups appointed by the organization, and 6 members appointed by the Governor.</p> <p>Purposes of EDCO include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advise and make recommendations to the State Board of Education, the General Assembly regarding statutory and regulatory policies necessary to promote 21st century learning that enhances socioeconomic and demographic diversity in public schools and reduces the achievement gap between socioeconomic and demographic groups across the State; and 2. Study and promote policies that increase the opportunity for enhancing socioeconomic and demographic diversity of student enrollment through twenty-first century learning opportunities across all schools and between local school systems in the State 3. EDCO is to perform the following functions: 4. Collaborate with LEAs, state gov't, and stakeholders to provide research and development approach to 21st century learning; 5. Disseminate information on best practices; 6. Provide technical assistance and training; 7. Collaborate on analysis and integration of data on 21st century learning; 8. Promote interagency efforts that support 21st century learning; and 9. Assist LEAs/cohorts of public schools to assess opportunities to enhance 21st century learning. 10. Funding for EDCO is \$250,000 from elimination of the Early High School Graduator Scholarship 	<p>Concerns raised this body would advise and make recommendations to the State Board of Education, General Assembly and local school systems regarding statutory and regulatory policies necessary to promote 21st Century learning across school systems and impeding upon local board authority. MABE Opposed.</p>
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		<p>program (fenced off funding) The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	
<p>SB 950/HB 778</p>	<p>Education - Students With Disabilities - <u>Study</u> of Parental Consent in the Individualized Education Program Process</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>AS INTRODUCED requires the IEP team to obtain written consent from a parent if the team proposes to enroll the child in an alternative education program that does not issue or provide credits toward a Maryland High School diploma, identify the child for the alternate assessment aligned with the state's alternate curriculum, use restraint or seclusion to correct the child's behavior, reduce or terminate the amount of instructional or related services that are provided to the child or initiate a change in the child's educational placement. If the parent does not provide written consent at the IEP team meeting, the IEP team shall send the parent written notice no later than 5 business days after the IEP meeting that informs the parent that: 1.) the parent has the right to either consent to or refuse to consent to an aforementioned action proposed and 2.) if the parent does not provide written consent or a written refusal to consent to an aforementioned action proposed within 20 business days of the IEP team meeting, the IEP team may implement the proposed action. If a parent refuses to consent to the action proposed, the IEP team may use dispute resolution options.</p> <p>AS AMENDED This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to convene a workgroup that consults with specified stakeholders regarding special education</p>	<p> FAILED</p> <p>Though on the surface this Bill appears to be family friendly, it would have the opposite impact on the family-school relationship. The school system would have to file due process against parents anytime that they refused consent to make any change to the IEP even if there is a change to State regulations.</p>
<p>SB 1041</p>	<p>Education - Digital Equity for All Act</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>As introduced on or before December 1, 2016, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) shall develop and adopt infrastructure standards that support the use of digital devices on a ratio of one device to one student. On or before December 1,</p>	<p> FAILED</p> <p>This is a local policy decision under the domain of local boards of education. By retaining decision-making authority at the</p>

		<p>2019, each local school system shall: 1) meet the infrastructure standards established by MSDE in accordance with this Bill; 2) implement a policy that provides for the use of a digital device by every student during the school day; and consider a policy that allows and encourages each student who has a digital device at home to bring the device to school to be used for instructional purposes. The required digital device may be provided to a student by the local school system or a personal digital device from the student's home.</p> <p>AS AMENDED renamed the Bill the Education - Physical and Digital Infrastructure in the Public Schools – Assessment requiring the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in cooperation and coordination with the local school systems, to conduct an assessment of the physical and digital infrastructure needed to support the integration of digital devices into the State’s education program for all public school students by December 1, 2016.</p>	<p>local level, local boards of education can best balance educational practices, available resources to implement those practices, public input, and accountability. This is especially true in reference to the requirements of this Bill which require significant fiscal, structural, and technological investments to support this goal. Additionally, the requirements of this Bill are costly and include the need for not only devices, but also the technological structures to support such devices.</p>
SB 1125/HB 1402	Public Schools Opportunities Enhancement Act	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>This bill establishes a Public School Opportunities Enhancement Program and Grant in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). MSDE must develop and administer the grant program to assist local school systems, public community schools, and nonprofit organizations in the State in expanding or creating extended day and summer enhancement programs and to assist nonprofit organizations in the State and community schools in expanding or supporting existing educational programming during the school day. For fiscal 2018 through 2021, the Governor must include \$7.5 million annually in the State budget for the program. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	 HB 1402 BECAME LAW WITHOUT SIGNATURE-CHAPTER 32 <p>HCPS does not qualify. Applies to LEAs that have at least 50% or more students on FRMs (Baltimore City and Allegany, Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Prince George’s, Somerset, and Wicomico)</p>
SB 1130/HB 1404	Construction Education and Innovation -	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p>	 HB 1404 BECAME

	Establishment of Fund	<p>As Introduced the bill’s purpose was for the Maryland Center for Construction and Innovation (MCCEI) to work in partnership with the construction industry, educational institutions and government to create a world-class education system for the state’s built environment and promote economic vitality of construction and serve as a resource for the construction industry, education institutions, and government in order to position construction as a career choice for the workforce.</p> <p>AS AMENDED the bill establishes the Construction Education and Innovation Fund to be administered by, and support the purposes of, the Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation (MCCEI). The bill requires the Governor to appropriate \$250,000 annually in the State budget to the fund beginning in fiscal 2018. MCCEI is a public-private partnership located at Towson University that was established in 2010 and is an industry-led workforce intermediary that was established to create a world-class education system for Maryland’s built environment. The bill takes effect October 1, 2016.</p>	<p>LAW WITHOUT SIGNATURE-CHAPTER 34</p> <p>Funding is \$250,000 from the Revenue Stabilization Account (fenced off funding)</p>
SB 1150	Primary and Secondary Education - Computer Health and Safety Guidelines and Procedures	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This Bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in consultation with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to support and facilitate education in computer health and safety guidelines and procedures in every county by adding such information into the county's boards' health education curriculum. It also requires MSDE to develop a process to monitor implementation of said education in computer health and safety guidelines and procedures and on or before December 1, 2020, and every 5 years thereafter.</p>	<p> FAILED</p> <p>Harford County Public Schools supports local decision-making authority in developing curriculum. The authority to establish curriculum is the domain of the State Board of Education and local Boards of Education the entities charged with the responsibility to research, investigate, and evaluate</p>

			curriculum.
SB 1170/HB 1403	Next Generation Scholars of Maryland	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>Creates the Next-Generation Scholars of Maryland Program in MSDE (moved from MHEC) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allow eligible students in grades 7 and 8 to prequalify for a Guaranteed Access (GA) Grant; • MSDE must award grants to nonprofit organizations to administer the program and provide services in <u>LEAs that have at least 50% or more students on FRMS.</u> • \$5 million mandatory appropriation from FY 2018 to FY 2023 <p>The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	 PENDING SIGNATURE HCPS does not qualify
SB 1173/HB 1406	Task Force to Study the Adult High School Concept	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>This bill establishes a Task Force to Study the Adult High School Concept, staffed by the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The task force must study and identify best practices relating to eligibility requirements, financial stability, capacity standards, accreditation, reporting requirements, data collection, matriculation requirements, curriculum content and requirements, funding requirements and options, and any other issues relevant to the development of the adult high school concept. The task force must make recommendations regarding enabling legislation and regulations for the establishment and regulation of adult high schools, and the task force must submit its findings and recommendations in an interim report to the General Assembly and specified committees by December 15, 2016. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	 PENDING SIGNATURE FYI Advised early in session this would become a study.
HB 29	Education-Participants in Youth Sports	OPPOSED	 FAILED

	Concussions-Penalties for Coaches	<p>This bill requires a local board of education, on the recommendation of a local superintendent, to suspend a coach who violates specified provisions relating to the removal from play of a student who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or other head injury in a practice or game and the return to play of the student. Likewise, a youth sports program must suspend a coach for violating similar provisions regarding concussions. The local board of education must follow a specified process prior to suspending a coach, which includes an opportunity for a hearing and appeal of a decision to the State Board of Education.</p>	<p>Already being done. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) in conjunction with the Maryland Public School Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) and the state concussion advisory committee has established very clear, comprehensive guidelines and procedures regarding concussions and management. These procedures are reviewed every year and are based on the latest national research. All school systems follow these guidelines and have specific due-process and appeals processes in place. Superintendents already can suspend coaches in the manner described in the proposed legislation.</p>
<p>HB 41/HB 853 (two House Bills)</p>	<p>Public Schools-Boards of Education- Anonymous Two-Way Test Messaging Tip Programs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires each local board of education to establish a two-way text messaging tip program for students to anonymously report bullying, harassment, or intimidation of a student. The purpose of the program is for a student or parent, guardian, or close adult relative of a student or a school staff member to report acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation. The information received through a two-way text messaging tip program is confidential and may not be made a part of a student's permanent educational record. T</p>	<p> FAILED</p> <p>Questionable if text messages or where they originate would be able to stay anonymous. Already have reporting formats. While HCPS supports the efforts to report all acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation, we currently have reporting formats in place.</p>

HB 72	Education-Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires the State Board of Education and specified nonpublic schools in the State to develop and implement a program of age-appropriate education on the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault. The program must be taught by teachers who are trained to provide instruction on the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault and incorporated into the health curriculum of local boards of education and nonpublic schools. The State Board of Education must adopt regulations to carry out the bill. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	 PENDING SIGNATURE Our current curriculum meets the intent of the Bill
HB 85	Education - Children With Disabilities - Support Services - Parental Notification	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>This bill requires that the parents of a child with a disability at the initial evaluation meeting be provided with written information that the parents may use to contact local school system early intervention and special education family support services staff members, and a brief description of the services that they provide. The parents may request this information at any subsequent meeting and this information must be prominently published on the appropriate section of each local school system's website. If a parent's native language is not English, the information must be provided in a parent's native language. If a child with an IEP developed in one local school system moves into another local school system, the latter school system must provide the information at the time of the first written communication with the parents regarding the child's IEP or special education services. Failure to provide the information required by the bill does not constitute grounds for a due process complaint. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	 PENDING SIGNATURE This information may be helpful to parents, but it is already readily available to parents by calling departments or schools.
HB 109	Public Schools-Health and Safety-Food	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p>	 FAILED

	Transparency	This bill requires local school systems to include food and drink items that are sold à la carte on monthly dining menus. If an à la carte item is sold in the item's original packaging, the menu must include the following information: (1) the most prominently displayed brand and product name; and (2) the flavor of the item, if applicable. If à la carte items differ from school to school within a local school system, the local school system must either (1) create an individual monthly à la carte menu for each school or (2) include a disclaimer on the monthly dining menu that à la carte items vary by school.	Unfunded fiscal impact to mail information on a la carte menu to all parents once a month. Overreaching legislation
HB 142	Education - Health and Safety - Emotional Health Awareness Programs	OPPOSED	 FAILED Currently emotional health is taught as one of four components of wellness with the emphasis on creating a balance between the four parts (social, emotional, mental, and physical). This additional mandate is not necessary and it is in conflict with our need for local decision-making authority in developing curriculum to meet the needs of our students. This Bill could create additional costs related to training materials, time, and professional development.
HB 145	Public School Labor Relations Board- Renegotiation Procedures and Administration	OPPOSED	 FAILED Many issues. One central venue for judicial proceedings, alternate agreements relating to renegotiation.

		negotiated agreement under specified circumstances. Specified powers of PSLRB with regards to the administration and enforcement of the collective bargaining process for certificated and non-certificated public school employees are altered.	
HB 198	Primary and Secondary Education-Security-School Resource Officers	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires at least one school resource officer to be assigned to each public school. If a public school does not have at least one assigned school resource officer as of August 1, 2016, the school's local superintendent must hire a retired law enforcement officer to serve as the school's school resource officer. A local school system is entitled to reimbursement from the State for all expenditures necessary to meet this requirement, to be paid from the Education Trust Fund (ETF).</p>	 FAILED Recognize intent. Currently have Memorandums of Understanding with local law enforcement for School Resource Officers. Also high fiscal impact
HB 251	Education-Home Instruction Programs-Participate in Clubs and Activities	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires, beginning January 1, 2017, a local school system to allow a student participating in a home instruction program to participate in the extracurricular clubs and activities (including interscholastic athletics) of the local school system. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) may adopt regulations to implement requirements of the bill.</p>	 FAILED Determining academic eligibility, clear lack of clarity as to what circumstances a school could deny or rescind participation and liability coverage for students.
HB 324	Education-Maryland High School Diploma-Civics Test Requirement	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires on or after January 1, 2018, to graduate from a public high school, a student must take and answer correctly at least 60% of the 100 questions used for the civics portion of the naturalization test administered by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS). Likewise, to obtain a Maryland high school diploma through the Maryland Adult External High School or through examination (e.g. the GED) an individual must meet this requirement.</p>	 FAILED Legislated Curriculum/interjecting piecemeal segments weaken effectiveness of program.

<p>HB 352</p>	<p>Office of Legislative Audits - Local School System Audits</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>As introduced the bill would have repealed the local school system audits from the Office of Legislative Audits.</p> <p>AS AMENDED, this bill establishes a potential exemption to the general requirement that the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA), at least once every six years, conduct an audit of each local school system to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the financial management practices at the local school system. Beginning in fiscal 2017, a local school system is exempt from the audit requirement if the county governing body, the county board of education, and the county delegation to the Maryland General Assembly each submits a letter to the Joint Audit Committee requesting an exemption by November 1, 2016, or by November 1 of the last year of the six-year audit cycle for local school systems. However, the Joint Audit Committee may direct OLA to conduct an audit of a local school system at any time. The bill takes effect October 1, 2016.</p>	<p> PENDING SIGNATURE HCPS believes that repealing the legislative audits would not repeal local school system accountability and should be noted annual audits by independent external auditors and grant audits are being done as well as audits by the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland State Retirement Agency. Additionally, HCPS receives school construction audits as well as having an independent auditor that reports directly to the Board of Education and provides spot audit functions over HCPS school system activities.</p>
<p>HB 365</p>	<p>Public Schools - Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Policies - Update</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSE</p> <p>This bill requires the State Board of Education, after consultation with local school systems, to update its model bullying, harassment, or intimidation policy by September 1, 2016, and every five years thereafter. Each local board of education must then update its policy based on the State board’s update of the model policy and submit it to the State Superintendent of Schools by January 1, 2017, and every five years thereafter. The definition of “electronic communication” in reference to the model bullying, harassment, or intimidation policy specifically includes a social media communication. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	<p> PENDING SIGNATURE Already updating our policies and procedures including electronic communication.</p>

HB 429	Task Force to Combat Habitual Student Truancy	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>This bill establishes the Task Force to Combat Habitual Student Truancy. The task force member representing Morgan State University must chair the task force, which is to be staffed by Morgan State University. By July 1, 2017, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.</p>	 PENDING SIGNATURE Typically do not take positions on these types of bills. However, one member of MABE is included.
HB 453	Maryland Education Credit (Admin Bill)	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This Administration bill creates a State income tax credit for 60% of the contributions made by a business entity or nonprofit organization to an eligible nonprofit organization that provides specified financial assistance to students at public or eligible nonpublic K-12 schools and preK programs. The amount of credits that the Department of Commerce can award in each year cannot exceed the amount of money appropriated to a reserve fund established by the bill.</p>	 FAILED This bill appears to divert to private schools and takes money out of the state revenue system. Private and parochial schools should have same fiscal and performance accountability standards required by public schools when receiving state funding.
HB 474	Elementary School Students - Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness Act)	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires all public elementary school students to be provided daily programs of physical activity totaling 150 minutes per week, including a minimum of 90 minutes per week of physical education. For any of the required minutes not spent in physical education, each elementary school must designate a physical activity leadership team to plan and coordinate opportunities for moderate to vigorous activity (including recess) to make up the remaining time.</p>	 FAILED To implement what is called for in this bill is not realistic, and would present local boards of education with another unfunded mandate. Furthermore, to accommodate additional physical education within the current instructional day would require some other subject matter to be set aside unless the school day was lengthened at a considerable cost for the additional instructional time.

<p>HB 476</p>	<p>State Board of Education - Financial Literacy Curriculum - Graduation Requirement</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content for a semester-long course in financial literacy. Each local board of education must implement the curriculum in every high school under the board’s jurisdiction, and a student must complete the course in order to graduate from high school.</p>	<p> FAILED</p> <p>Current regulations require each local school system must provide personal financial literacy programs in elementary, middle, and high schools that at least meet the content standards in the regulations. HCPS understands the need for financial literacy and under current law any school system may on its own require high school students to complete a semester long course in financial literacy.</p>
<p>HB 528</p>	<p>Primary and Secondary Education - Sensible Sugar in Schools Act</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires each local board of education to develop a plan for reducing students’ total sugar intake per school meal by August 1, 2017, based on recommendations from the American Heart Association and the workgroup established by the bill. Each local board must convene a workgroup to study the best practices of lowering students’ total sugar intake per school meal, consider whether the best practices would be appropriate to implement in the local school system, and make recommendations.</p>	<p> FAILED</p> <p>Federal law and regulations address nutritional markers, including total calorie, protein and fat. School meals are not high in sugars. If a school meal and/or a la carte item meet the standards for the United States Department of Health, Maryland State Department of Education and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, Smart Snack Calculator, why would a school system determine the product not acceptable? The overall meal should be taken into consideration when assessing the benefits to the</p>

			meal. Look at total calories, serving sizes and variety offered. This Bill does not include regulations and guidelines from USDA and MSDE, both governing bodies for the School Meals Program.
HB 551	Education - Children With Disabilities - Individualized Education Program Mediation	NO POSITION This bill requires the individualized education program (IEP) team to provide a parent who disagrees with a child's IEP or special education services with, in plain language: (1) an oral and written explanation of the parent's right to mediation; (2) contact information for receiving information on the mediation process; and (3) information regarding pro bono representation. The parent may request this information at any IEP team meeting. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must make staff available to assist a parent in understanding the mediation process. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.	 PENDING SIGNATURE We already do what is required in the Bill. At the initial evaluation meeting, the parents of a child with a disability must be provided, in plain language, a verbal and written explanation of the parents' rights and responsibilities in the IEP process and a program procedural safeguards notice. The parents may request this information at any subsequent meeting.
HB 596	State Department of Education - Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program - Age of Eligibility	NO POSITION This bill alters the age of eligibility, from under the age of 3 years to under the age of 18 years, for a child receiving services through the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.	 Approved by the Governor - Chapter 40 FYI
HB 620	Elementary and Secondary Education - Required Number of School Days - Repeal	OPPOSED This bill repeals the minimum number of school days (180) that a public school must be open for pupil attendance in a school	 FAILED While this Bill appears to offer the possibility for more flexibility for

		<p>year while maintaining the 1,080-school-hour minimum during a 10-month period. Education funding from State and local sources may not be reduced if there are less than 1,080 school hours in any year because of a State Board of Education approved application permitting (1) adjustment in the length of a school year; (2) exceptions from the requirement that the school year be completed within a 10-month period; (3) adjustments in the length of a school day; or (4) schools to be open on holidays.</p>	<p>school systems in creating their school calendar, a more thoughtful approach to the school calendar requirements is needed. We do not want this Bill to serve as an opportunity for students to spend less time in schools learning.</p>
<p>HB 633</p>	<p>Education - Teacher and Principal Evaluations - Revisions to Requirements</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill repeals the requirement that the regulations adopted by the State Board of Education include a default model for the performance evaluation of teachers and principals. The bill requires the State board to adopt new regulations that establish general standards for performance evaluations of teachers and principals that allow for flexibility and innovation in addition to current requirements. A local board of education must establish performance evaluation criteria for teachers and principals that are mutually agreed upon by the local school system and the exclusive employee representative using the collective bargaining process. The performance evaluation criteria must incorporate data on student growth, rather than include it as a significant component of the evaluation and as one of multiple measures. Finally, the bill repeals the provision prohibiting any performance evaluation criteria from using student growth data based on State assessments to make personnel decision before the 2016-2017 school year.</p>	<p> FAILED</p> <p>Collective bargaining issues with bill. If enacted, this Bill would empower employee labor unions to litigate their objections to educator evaluation systems before the Public School Labor Relations Board (PSLRB) and eventually the courts. This would be an infringement on the governance and management authority of local boards and superintendents to evaluate staff.</p> <p>Additionally, this legislation is premature in light of the process set forth in the recently enacted Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which requires collaboration on behalf of school systems and employees regarding teacher evaluations.</p>

<p>HB 725</p>	<p>Handguns - School Employees - Handgun Permits and Carrying Weapons on School Property</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill authorizes a county board of education (including Baltimore City) to authorize school employees in the local school system to carry a handgun on school property. A school employee may carry a handgun under this authorization only if the handgun is secured on the person's body. The bill creates an exception to the prohibition against carrying a deadly weapon on public school property for a person who has been authorized to carry a handgun by a county board and who has been issued a handgun permit by the Department of State Police (DSP) if the weapon is secured on the person's body.</p>	<p> FAILED</p> <p>Although we recognize and appreciate the intent of this legislation to facilitate the enhancement of school safety, HCPS believes that the current law provides ample authority for individuals employed for purposes of providing armed public safety in schools to do so. Section 4-102 of the Criminal Law Article, which generally prohibits any person from possessing a firearm on school property, already appropriately exempts (1) a law enforcement officer in the regular course of the officer's duty, and (2) a person hired by a county board of education specifically for the purpose of guarding public school property.</p>
<p>HB 750</p>	<p>Public Schools - Electronic Smoking Devices - Policy and Disciplinary Standards</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>Requiring the State Department of Education, after consultation with each local school system, to develop, on or before April 1,</p>	<p> FAILED</p> <p>This Bill is unnecessary as local school systems already have</p>

		2017, a specified model policy prohibiting the use of specified electronic smoking devices on school property, on school buses, and at school-sponsored events; requiring that the model policy contain specified information; requiring specified county boards of education to establish specified policies prohibiting the use of electronic smoking devices at specified locations and specified events.	policies in place. We have already adopted a policy and regulation that prohibits electronic smoking devices on school property for both staff and students.
HB 781	Education - Assessments - Reporting of Aggregate Results	OPPOSED This bill prohibits the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) from including the scores of students with disabilities or English language learners when calculating or reporting any aggregate results of the assessment aligned with the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards (i.e. the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments)	 FAILED The new <i>Every Student Succeeds Act</i> (ESSA) requires the breakout of data for whole schools, plus different student groups such as English Language Learners and students in special education. ESSA shifts the accountability for English language learners into Title I; allowing schools to phase in the use of English language learners test results for accountability purposes. ESSA allows states to determine accountability system and performance of English language learners must be included.
HB 836	Educational Institutions - Notice of Criminal Activity and Threats to Safety	OPPOSED This bill establishes notification requirements for employees of “educational institutions” who observe or receive information about actual or potential crimes of violence by students or other parties or potential threats to the safety of students and staff.	 FAILED This Bill would circumscribe local board authority to establish and enforce policies, rules and regulations. HCPS supports local discretion to adopt programs and policies to maintain and improve

			<p>school safety, and opposes any legislation which attempts to address student safety concerns in a fragmented manner or with a “one-size-fits all” approach. Current policies clearly specify violence and vandalism shall not be tolerated by HCPS, and as such, both are strictly prohibited. It remains our position that school officials, with the assistance of law enforcement agencies, shall take immediate and responsive action toward all persons engaging in crimes of violence and other serious property crimes.</p>
HB 883	Public Schools - Synthetic Turf Fields - Informational Signs	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires public elementary or secondary schools that have a synthetic turf field on property owned by a local government or school system that is used for school activities to post a sign – in a conspicuous location – advising users of the field to take recommended precautions.</p>	<p> FAILED</p> <p>This is in reaction to the debate as to whether the use of crumb rubber infill is a health hazard and to date has not been proven to be hazardous. However, in Feb 2016 the EPA and other federal agencies are doing a multi-agency action plan to study with report due late 2016.</p>
HB 921	Primary and Secondary Education - School Personnel - Training Requirement	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This Bill requires all school personnel to complete training each year, by a method determined by the State Board after consultation with the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board, in the skills required to understand and</p>	<p> FAILED</p> <p>We support local control of educational policy and administration. The requirements of this Bill infringe upon such</p>

		respond to the social, emotional, and personal development of students, including knowledge and skills relating to the recognition of indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress, including depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse and the identification of professional resources to help students in crisis. The training shall be provided to school personnel during an in-service program or a professional development requirement that may be met during time designated for professional development. The state Board shall adopt regulations to implement this Bill	local decision making.
HB 983	Public Schools - Food Recovery Programs - Authorization	OPPOSED This bill authorizes a county board of education to develop and implement a “food recovery program” that reduces food waste by donating leftover or excess food in schools under its jurisdiction to a local food bank or other nonprofit organization. If a county board exercises this authority, it may apply for recognition of its food recovery program under any relevant certification program. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.	 PENDING SIGNATURE This Bill intends to require a program for excess food. USDA offers guidance for this process. The Bill authorizes the county to develop a food recovery plan for leftover food in the kitchens which opens us up to a multitude of health related issues.
HB 996	Education - Public School Holidays - Easter Monday	SUPPORTED This bill repeals the requirement that the Monday after Easter is a public school holiday. Instead, each local board of education is authorized to designate the Monday after Easter as a public school holiday.	 FAILED Local ability for greater flexibility in making school calendar, especially when changes are made due to severe weather and days must be made up.
HB 1040	Education - Student Report Cards - Required Information	OPPOSED This bill requires, beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, each local school system to include the following information on student report cards: (1) the grade of the school the student	 FAILED Due to recent reauthorization of ESEA, the new Act ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) will

		attends; and (2) the total per pupil funding amount the local school system received for the current school year. This information must be located at the top of the report card in a clear and conspicuous manner. Also beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must grade each public school based on the school's performance on the assessment aligned with the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards (i.e. the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments). The established performance levels of PARCC must be used to develop the school grading system.	required multiple indicators and new required regulations will require a new State accountability system.
HB1058	Task Force to Review the Workload of Special Educators in the State	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>This bill establishes a Task Force to Review the Workload of Special Educators in the State. The task force must: • survey and assess the workloads of special educators from each local school system; • review and assess the concerns of special educators regarding their workloads; • research and analyze best practices from other jurisdictions regarding how to ensure that the workloads of special educators are manageable; • develop a set of best practices to ensure that the workloads of special educators are manageable; • research and develop a streamlined individualized education program process that does not run counter to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and • make recommendations for State and local policy and legislative initiatives to address the workload concerns of special educators.</p>	 FAILED Although a good initiative, typically do not take positions on Task Force legislation to study an issue.
HB 1100	School Counseling Program – Counseling Services – Requirements	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires each local board of education to require the School Counseling Program in the county to provide counseling services to students during the entire calendar year. The local board of education, in consultation with each public school</p>	 FAILED HCPS appreciates intent of this Bill to bridge a service gap when students are not in school over the summer; however school

		within its jurisdiction, must (1) determine the student needs for counseling services during the period of time when schools are not in session for summer break, prioritizing the needs of at-risk students; and (2) develop a plan for meeting those student needs, including consideration of costs, transportation, and continuity of care.	counselors provide mental health support to students on a responsive basis. More long-term therapeutic interventions require referrals to outside agencies should be through the parents. Also unfunded mandate for increasing 10 and 11 month staff to 12 month positions.
HB 1108	Environment - Municipal Stormwater Charges - Property Subject to Charges	NO POSITION	 FAILED State and local governments are exempt from the stormwater charges established under § 4-204 of the Environment Article.
HB 1139	Education - Community School Strategy - Required Notice and Support	SUPPORT	 PENDING SIGNATURE] HCPS supports any additional funding for our school system.
		As originally introduced HCPS would not have qualified for funding.	
		As amended the bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), every two years beginning July 15, 2016, to notify each local school system and each community school in the State that federal Title I funds may be used for expenses associated with community school coordinators and for the coordination of school and community resources associated with the implementation of a community school strategy in a public school in the State. MSDE must also encourage local school systems and community schools to apply for federal funding	

		under Title IV of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for expenses associated with after-school programming, community school coordinators, and the coordination of school and community resources associated with the implementation of a community school strategy. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.	
HB 1191	Task Force to Study an Online Program for Paraprofessionals Assisting Students With Autism	NO POSITION This bill establishes a Task Force to Study an Online Program for Paraprofessionals Assisting Students with Autism.	 FAILED Typically do not take positions on Task Force Measures
HB 1204	Education - PARCC Testing - Exemption for Children With Disabilities (Ben's Rule)	OPPOSED This bill exempts a child with a disability from being given a Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment or its equivalent except (1) if a parent or guardian of the child and the administration of the school that the child attends have agreed that the child may be given a PARCC assessment or its equivalent and (2) the agreement specified has been documented in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) of the child.	 FAILED This Bill appears to be in direct contradiction with the <i>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act</i> (IDEA) in the fact that school systems are required to assess all students with the same assessment, regardless of disability. An exception would be our students who are on a certificate track and participate in the Alternative Assessment/Multi-State Alternate Assessment.
HB 1213	Education – Broadening Options and Opportunity for Students and Teachers (BOOST) Program – Establishment	OPPOSED This bill establishes a Broadening Options and Opportunity for Students and Teachers (BOOST) program within the Department of Commerce (DOC) to provide scholarships to eligible students who attend approved schools. The program will receive net funding of at least \$35.0 million, which is provided through the creation of a tax credit against the insurance premium tax or corporate income tax for companies that make designated	 Although this Bill FAILED passage, the language was added to the Budget Conference Committee and is passed. This tax-credit scheme would further jeopardize the financial

		contributions to the program. DOC can award a maximum of \$50.0 million in tax credits, which can be claimed beginning with tax year 2017. The bill provides for the application and certification process and creates a BOOST Authority within DOC.	health of public schools. What's more, the state would facilitate the transfer of public money to religious schools, in violation of the constitutional principle that bars the government from endorsing religion.
HB 1233	Education - Administration of Standardized Tests and Assessments - Notice	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill requires each local board of education to annually review and update (1) a list of standardized tests and any other mandated assessments required to be administered by a local school system by grade and content area and (2) the date range for the administration of the standardized tests and mandated assessments. By the first day of an academic quarter during which a standardized test or mandated assessment will be administered, a local board of education must provide parents specified information about the standardized tests and mandated assessments</p>	 FAILED HCPS already reviews our assessment plan and calendar on an annual basis. This Bill would require additional work to meet requirements of Bill especially having this information in the parent's native language which could potentially be in 30-40 difference languages. HCPS already communicates to our parents regarding our assessments.
HB 1289	Education – Healthy Kids Award Program	<p style="text-align: center;">NO POSITION</p> <p>This bill establishes a Healthy Kids Award Program to (1) reward schools that implement policies and practices that create opportunities for students to be physically active and make healthy food choices throughout the school day; (2) encourage the integration of physical activity into nonphysical education classes, recess, and extracurricular activities throughout the school day; and (3) establish guidelines that a local board of education may adopt to promote quality recess practices and behaviors that engage all students and increase their physical activity levels</p>	 FAILED The Child Nutrition and Women, Infants, and Children Reauthorization Act of 2004 requires local education agencies (LEAs) to establish a local school wellness policy (LWP) by the 2006 school year that set goals for nutrition education, physical activity, and other school-based activities designed to promote student wellness.

HB 1375	Public Schools and Libraries - Access to Obscene Materials and Child Pornography - Prohibited	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill prohibits a local board of education, a public school, the State Library Resource Center, regional resource centers, metropolitan cooperative service programs, the Maryland Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and county libraries from allowing access to materials that are obscene or constitute child pornography, including access via the use of a wireless Internet connection.</p>	 FAILED Schools systems already required to do this under the Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000.
HB 1396	Domestic Violence - Education and Definition of Abuse	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>This bill expands the definition of “abuse” as it applies to petitions for domestic violence protective orders to include “harassment” and the “malicious destruction of property.” The bill also requires the State Board of Education to encourage the county boards to incorporate age-appropriate lessons on domestic violence into the health education curriculum.</p>	 FAILED The authority to establish curriculum is the domain of the State Board of Education and local Boards of Education the entities charged with the responsibility to research, investigate, and evaluate curriculum.
HB 1426	Education - Maryland Public Education Fund - Income Tax Checkoff	<p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <p>Beginning in fiscal 2019, the Governor must appropriate to each county board of education the contributions that are credited to the fund from the residents of each county. Funds may not be used for county board of education salaries or pensions.</p>	 FAILED HCPS supports any additional funding to our school system
HB 1437	Education - Individualized Counseling Services - Requirements	<p style="text-align: center;">OPPOSED</p> <p>School-based personnel in public elementary and secondary schools may refer a student to the school guidance counselor or the school counseling program to determine whether the student needs individualized counseling services. The guidance counselor must assist any student referred to them for this purpose in obtaining a professional determination regarding their need for individualized counseling services. Each public school</p>	 FAILED The ethical standards adhered to by Student Support Services staff dictate that they should not be recommending a specific provider, but rather providing parents/guardians with several suggestions in order not to appear

		must (1) provide space in the building for a student and an LCPC to meet privately during school hours for individualized counseling services and (2) work with the student and LCPC to schedule individualized counseling services during school hours with minimal disruption to the student's academic schedule.	to be endorsing one practice over another
HB 1456	Public Schools - Access to Obscene Materials and Child Pornography - Prohibited	OPPOSED This bill prohibits a local board of education and a public school from lending electronic devices to students that allow access to materials that are obscene or constitute child pornography, including access via the use of a wireless Internet connection. A local board and a public school must adopt and implement policies and procedures to prevent access on electronic devices that are lent to students to such materials through any interactive computer service and must submit these policies and procedures to the State Superintendent of Schools for review.	 FAILED Schools systems already required to do this under the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000.
HB 1473	Public Schools-School Vehicles-Three-Point Seat Belts	OPPOSED This bill requires every school vehicle purchased after January 1, 2018, and registered in the State to be equipped with three-point seat belts for every seat on the school vehicle. Local school systems must provide student instruction on school vehicle safety and the proper use of seat belts on school vehicles, as part of an existing program of safety education. A person may not operate a school vehicle unless the person and each occupant under 16 years old are restrained by a seat belt.	 FAILED The current compartmentalization provides a safe environment for passengers on school buses. In the case of a role over or fire on the bus, the current safety features allow for quick and easy evacuation.
HB 1503	Adult Education - GED Testing Fees - Exemption for Homeless Youth	NO POSITION This bill exempts a homeless youth from paying general equivalency development (GED) testing fees if the individual (1) has had a consistent presence in the State for at least one year before applying to take the GED test, as evidenced by school, employment, or other records; (2) is a homeless child or youth,	 Approved by the Governor - Chapter 141 FYI

		as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; and (3) was determined to be a homeless youth by one of several specified individuals such as a homeless liaison from a local school system that the individual attended; a director or a designee of the director of a program in the state funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act; or a director or a designee in the state under Title IV, Subtitle B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The Bill takes effect October 1, 2016.	
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**LOCAL BILLS
GUBERNATORIAL VETO OVERRIDE - CHAPTER 35**

HB 172 - Anne Arundel County Board of Education and School Board Nominating Commission This bill alters the membership of the School Board Nominating Commission of Anne Arundel County, limits commission members to eight years of service, requires commission members to be residents of Anne Arundel County, and prohibits all but specified commission members from being current employees of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education. The commission selects its chair from among its members; the chair’s term of service as chair is reduced to two years. The terms of the current commission members appointed by the Governor terminate June 1, 2016. The bill takes effect June 1, 2016.

**LOCAL BILLS
PENDING GOVERNOR SIGNATURE**

HB 55 -Baltimore County - Education - WhyTryProgram - This bill requires the Baltimore County Board of Education to develop and implement a two-year “WhyTry” pilot program in Baltimore County. The county board must select 2 middle schools that reflect the geographic, racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity of the middle school population in each of the school system’s five geographic areas (a total of 10 middle schools) to participate in the program. The program must include at least two teachers in each of the selected middle schools who have received two levels of program training. Funding for the program must be provided from the Education Trust Fund (ETF). The bill takes effect July 1, 2016, and terminates June 30, 2018.

HB 87 - Montgomery County Board of Education - Student Member - Voting MC 11-16 - This bill repeals certain voting rights exceptions for the student member of the Montgomery County Board of Education so that the student member is required to vote on matters relating to capital and operating budgets; school closings, reopening’s, and boundaries; and collective bargaining. The bill also authorizes the student member to attend executive sessions that relate to collective bargaining. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

HB 163/SB 129 - Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners - Submission of a Comprehensive Master Plan - Repeal of Duplicative Requirement This bill repeals an obsolete and duplicative requirement that the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) submit annual updates of a specified five-year comprehensive master plan. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

HB 226/SB 16 - Talbot County - Board of Education - Student Members - This bill increases, from one to two, the number of nonvoting student members on the Talbot County Board of Education. The two student members must be eleventh or twelfth grade public school students and are appointed to one-year terms according to procedures adopted by the county board. One student member must be appointed from St. Michaels High School and the other from Easton High School. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

HB 349 – Baltimore County - Education - Career Exploration and Development Activities - Coffee (Java Act) - This bill prohibits an Executive Branch agency from banning or regulating the sale of caffeinated beverages in conjunction with a career exploration and development activity in a public high school in Baltimore County. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016, and terminates June 30, 3019.

HB 558 - Baltimore City - Partially Elected School Board - This bill restructures the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners from an appointed board to a hybrid board with two members elected from the city at large, nine members jointly appointed by the Governor and the mayor, and one student member. The two elected board members will be elected at the general election in November 2020 and every four years thereafter. The bill also extends the term of nonstudent members from three to four years. The State Board of Education may remove an elected voting member for (1) immorality; (2) misconduct in office; (3) incompetency; or (4) willful neglect of duty. The bill takes effect immediately as an emergency measure.

HB 969 - Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Business Establishments Near Schools - This bill authorizes the Harford County Board of License Commissioners to issue an alcoholic beverages license to an establishment anywhere in Harford County, if the establishment is not located within 300 feet of a public or private school, effectively decreasing the minimum distance requirement for areas outside of a municipality in the county from 1,000 feet. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

HB 1087 – Task Force to Study a Promise Scholarship Program in Prince George's County PG 438-16 - This bill establishes the Task Force to Study a Promise Scholarship Program in Prince George's County to study the feasibility of creating a Prince George's County Promise Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to pay for tuition and mandatory fees not covered by federal or State financial aid for graduates of Prince George's County public high schools who enroll at Prince George's Community College (PGCC). By January 1, 2017, the task force must report its finding and recommendations to the Prince George's County Executive and the General Assembly. The bill takes effect June 1, 2016, and terminates May 31, 2017.

HB 1105 - Howard County Public School System - Access to Public Information Ho. Co. 9-16 - This bill requires a custodian of a public record for the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) that charges an applicant a fee for access to public information, to provide a written notice advising the applicant of his/her option to file a complaint with the State Public Information Act Compliance Board to contest the fee. The bill also requires the Public Access Ombudsman to investigate, evaluate, and issue a report by January 1, 2017, concerning HCPSS relating access to public records, as specified. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016. Approved by the Governor - Chapter 132

SB 145 - Wicomico County Board of Education - Election and Appointment of Members - This bill, subject to Wicomico County referendum, requires restructuring of the Wicomico County Board of Education from a seven-member appointed board to either (1) a seven-member hybrid board consisting of five elected members (one from each of the five councilmanic districts on a nonpartisan basis) and two members appointed at large by the Wicomico County Council or (2) a seven-member nonpartisan elected board consisting of five members each elected from one of the five councilmanic districts and two members elected at large. The bill specifies that the terms of board members who are in office on December 2, 2018, will expire on December 2, 2018. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016, for the purpose of conducting the referendum at the 2016 general election.

SB 1126 - Frederick County - Linking Youth to New Experiences (LYNX) High School - This bill establishes a Linking Youth to New Experiences (LYNX) High School at Frederick High School in Frederick County. By September 30, 2016, the Frederick County superintendent must develop, in consultation and collaboration with specified individuals and collective bargaining representatives, and submit to the Frederick County Board of Education for approval a plan that describes in detail the program description, proposed curriculum, evaluation procedures, performance standards, and standards for graduation for students to be enrolled in the LYNX High School. By December 1, 2016, the Frederick County Board of Education must approve the plan and submit it to the State Board of Education for review. The LYNX High School may apply for and accept donations, grants, or other financial assistance from a government or any nonprofit or other private organization. The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education of Harford County accept the Summary of the 2016 Session of the Maryland General Assembly.