

# POLICY

## BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

**Related Entries: Policy 615**

**Responsible Office: ADVANCED STUDIES & PROGRAMS**

### **SIGNATURE PROGRAMS**

#### **A. PURPOSE**

To establish a policy governing Signature Programs for Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS).

#### **B. ISSUE**

Signature Programs promote educational excellence and offer students distinct educational choices.

#### **C. DEFINITIONS**

*Signature Program* - a program theme chosen by a high school and its surrounding community, to connect classroom instruction with real-world situations and workforce-relevant skills.

A Signature Program connects educators with local business and community leaders to make classroom instruction relevant, interesting, and challenging for students and creates opportunities that connect to the 21st century workplace. Signature Programs are available only to students enrolled at that school, and may or may not comprise a school's entire curriculum offering. Students shall be able to engage in Signature-related courses, afterschool offerings and internship work. Such offerings shall be available to all students on a space-available basis during annual student scheduling or registration time.

#### **D. POSITION**

1. The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) believes that Signature Programs are valuable programs of choice within designated schools that provide opportunities for students to enhance their educational success through challenging and relevant courses that addresses the academic needs and interests of students, the school, and the community. The Board shall make every effort to provide support to Signature programs, linked to potential community and business partnerships, to meet the educational and career interests of AACPS students.

2. Each of the 12 comprehensive high schools in Anne Arundel County (Annapolis High School, Arundel High School, Broadneck High School, Chesapeake High School, Glen Burnie High School, Meade High School, North County High School, Northeast High School, Old Mill High School, Severna Park High School, South River High School, Southern High School) shall offer a unique Signature Program. These programs shall align with the AACPS goals to eliminate the achievement gap by providing all students with access to rigorous coursework.
3. Transfers shall not be approved for a student to attend a Signature Program outside of his/her attendance zone.
4. All business partnerships related to Signature Programs shall comply with policies BAF - Conflict of Interest, DEB - Bidding Procedures, their accompany regulations BAF-RA, DEB-RA, and any other applicable Board policies and regulations.

**E. IMPLEMENTATION**

The Superintendent is authorized to develop regulations to implement this policy.

*Policy History: Adopted: 08/20/14.*

*Note previous policy history: Adopted 04/04/07.*