



TAAAC
January 2025

Action Report

Kristina Korona, President
Jorge Córdoba, Vice President
Diane Barnes, Secretary-Treasurer

Revenue. Revenue. Revenue.

We can't achieve Dr. Bedell's goal of moving AACPS schools from good to great if we don't start with the basic principle that **Our Students are Worth the Investment**. This is why now is the time for us to speak out to protect and increase public education funding! Unfortunately, we have been hearing concerns about budget deficits at the state level which may pause funding for the Blueprint. We know there are threats to the Department of Education that will affect special education funding. We also know that Anne Arundel County is one of the wealthiest in the state but continues to have some of the lowest tax rates.



We are seeing what happens if we don't invest in public education: fewer aspiring educators are choosing this profession because they don't believe that it will provide a sustainable living for themselves or their families. We have been unable to retain dedicated staff as they choose to retire or leave for other jobs. Decreased staffing has led to increased class sizes and caseloads which leaves student needs unmet because our working conditions are students' learning conditions. We are encouraged by Dr. Bedell's budget proposal which includes a request for \$94 million in additional county funding. This provides for 155 additional special education positions, 20 more staff to support our multilingual learners, and 3.5 new elementary school counselor positions. These are critical staff that will both increase the support for our students and lower our workloads.

This is why we must speak up to ensure that Anne Arundel County commits to funding the increased revenue needed to ensure that our salaries which have lagged behind neighboring counties for years are finally competitive enough to retain our experienced educators. We cannot remain silent as we hear that Blueprint funding mandates may be paused. By 2032, the Blueprint requires that there is enough staffing to decrease instructional time to just 60% to allow for more planning time. We need to continue implementing the Blueprint if we want to see the full promise of this legislation come to fruition.

Here's how you can make an impact this budget, bargaining, and legislative season:

1. **Testify at County-Wide Budget Town Halls:** County Executive Stuart Pittman hosts district-based budget town halls to hear from residents about their priorities. In order to make sure that we get the county revenue increases that we need to reduce our workloads and increase our compensation, we need members showing up at EVERY single one of them. There are town halls through early February.
2. **Sign the TAAAC Community Petition:** Ask your neighbors and colleagues to sign on in agreement that in order to fund the AACPS budget, we must increase revenue.
3. **Advocate at weekly Lobby Nights:** Every Monday we speak with members of the Anne Arundel County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly. Help advocate for continued Blueprint Funding!

Learn more about each action at: <https://taaaconline.org/2025-budget-and-bargaining/>

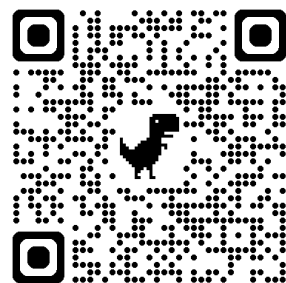
County Budget Town Halls

After the Board of Education approves Dr. Bedell's annual budget, it is sent to the County Executive to be funded. He hosts town halls in every district for residents to provide their input.

Here are the dates & locations:

- District 1 - 1/29 @ North County HS
- District 2 - 1/9 @ Severn Run HS
- District 3 - 1/14 @ Chesapeake HS
- District 4 - 1/30 @ Arundel HS
- District 5 - 1/16 @ Severna Park HS
- District 6 - 2/4 @ Annapolis HS
- District 7 - 1/23 @ Southern HS

RSVP at the QR code on the right >



TAAAC Board of Directors

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TAAAC Member Resources

CONTENTIA: UNISERV UPDATE

As a TAAAC member you have access to a variety of types of leave for different purposes. If you do not come to work and do not, or cannot, use one of these leave types you enter what's called "lost time" or unapproved and unpaid leave. This time is deducted from your paycheck and the accrual of too much lost time is grounds for disciplinary action (see the December Contentia for details on the discipline process).

To avoid entering lost time status you should do the following:

- Read and understand your leave options detailed in Articles 5, 6, 7, and 8 of our contract.
- Maintain communication with your supervisor if unexpected emergencies arise. Supervisors, including principals, have the authority to grant you approved unpaid leave.
- Contact your UniServ Director at (410) 224-3330 if you have specific questions or would like clarity on your leave options.
- Members can also request approved unpaid leave in the event they exhaust all other leave options (Art 8N). This is approved on a case-by-case basis and is at the discretion of HR using their provided form.

BUILDING REP TRAINING

Our second training for Building Reps is coming up on Thursday, January 30 at Annapolis High. Topics include: Weingarten rights, best practices for disciplinary investigations, bully bosses, and legal rights. RSVP at: bit.ly/BRJan25

ReNew YOU with TAAAC

Join the Community Involvement Committee to table at the Annapolis High Wellness Day on February 1, 2025 at 9:30am

RSVP at:

secure.ngpvan.com/O_gcBgJGb02x7R21Nlwlyg2

LOBBYING IN 2025

If you're looking for ways to take action to support public education throughout the state of Maryland and in our backyards, join the Government Relations Committee for 2025 Lobbying! Every Monday starting January 13, we'll meet at the State House to lobby on pro-public education legislation.

Learn more and RSVP at: <https://shorturl.at/LflkG>

GREEN COMMITTEE

Join the next TAAAC Green Team Speaker Series about the state of climate education in Maryland, and how YOU can advance efforts to bring it into the classroom, on January 14, 2025 at Arlington Echo. Attend to earn credit toward your school's Green School Certification.

RSVP at taaaonline.org/events

BOWLING SOCIAL

The Early Career Educator Committee is hosting a Bowling Night! We'll have snacks and lanes. All members welcome.

Join us at the Crofton Bowling Centre on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 5:00pm. RSVP at taaaonline.org/events

BOOK CLUB

We are hosting a book study of *A Collective Bargain* by Jane McAlevey. Our first meeting will be on January 21, 2025 at the TAAAC Office. Contact Kristina Korona at kkorona@mseane.org for info.

IPD+ECE TRAINING

Join MSEA's training on navigating the new MSDE licensing process on January 29, 2025. Presenters will cover information for both new licenses and renewals. RSVP at:

secure.ngpvan.com/XVTYlyt6RoCuISXeGMWEdg2

Welcome to the new TAAAC members who joined our union over the last month!
Help other new hires join at: <https://www.mynea360.org/s/join-now>

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