

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2021, Legislative Day No. 5

Resolution No. 18-21

Introduced by Ms. Pickard, Ms. Rodvien, Mr. Pruski, and Ms. Lacey

By the County Council, March 1, 2021

1 RESOLUTION supporting the goals and recommendations of the Joint Initiative to  
2 Eliminate the Opportunity Gap Committee

3  
4 WHEREAS, the County Council recognizes that an opportunity gap related to race  
5 and income exists for some children in the Anne Arundel County Public School  
6 system; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, poverty, income inequality, unsafe housing, poor nutrition, and  
9 inadequate health care are contributing factors and, for Black students, structural  
10 and systemic racism perpetuate these inequities; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, school readiness and achievement continues to widen as these  
13 children move through the school system; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, in 2019, County Executive Steuart Pittman and Superintendent  
16 George Arlotto created the Joint Initiative to Eliminate the Achievement Gap, to  
17 address persistent disparities in academic performance among different groups of  
18 students, and the name was later changed to the Joint Initiative to Eliminate the  
19 Opportunity Gap to recognize the gap in metrics is not related to innate ability; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, a committee to oversee the initiative was assigned and representatives  
22 from various agencies and organizations were invited to be a members of the Joint  
23 Initiative to Eliminate the Opportunity Gap committee; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, on September 23, 2019, more than 200 participants attended a  
26 community launch meeting and the data collected during the meeting resulted in  
27 the creation of five subcommittees to address social determinants of education,  
28 systemic racism, discipline, family life, and curriculum; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, in its November 30, 2020 report, the Joint Initiative to Eliminate the  
31 Opportunity Gap committee recognized that the County's most vulnerable students  
32 are caught in the gap even before they enter school, and recommended strategies to  
33 increase opportunities and remove barriers to success for these students; now,  
34 therefore, be it

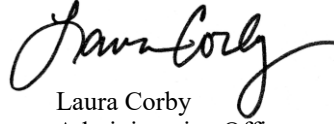
35  
36 *Resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, That it*  
37 *acknowledges the opportunity gap that exists in schools in the County and supports the*  
38 *goals, strategies, and recommendations contained in the 2020 report of the Joint Initiative*  
39 *to Eliminate the Opportunity Gap committee; and be it further*

1        *Resolved*, That the County Council respectfully requests that the Joint Initiative to  
2 Eliminate the Opportunity Gap committee provide to the Council, at intervals of no less  
3 than six months, reports on the implementation of their recommendations and any progress  
4 made on reaching their goals; and be it further  
5

6        *Resolved*, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to County Executive Steuart Pittman;  
7 George Arlotto, Superintendent of Schools; Jennifer Purcell, Director of Special Projects;  
8 and Monique Jackson, Deputy Superintendent of Schools.

READ AND PASSED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

By Order:



Laura Corby  
Administrative Officer

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT RESOLUTION NO. 18-21 IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND DULY  
ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.



Sarah F. Lacey  
Chair