



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

PG 501-23
Delegate Washington

Prince George's County Public Schools – Office of
Integrity and Compliance Establishment

POSITION:

SUPPORT

PG 501-23 – Prince George's County Public Schools – Office of Integrity and Compliance – Establishment – The bill establishes the Office of Integrity and Compliance in the Prince George's County public school system to evaluate, examine, investigate, report, and make recommendations on certain issues related to the Prince George's County public school system's effectiveness, productivity, efficiency, accountability, internal controls, and compliance with applicable laws policies and standards. This bill would take effect July 1, 2023.

This bill creates a new office in the County charged with investigating waste, fraud, and abuse in the public school system. It is authorized to issue subpoenas in support of this mission. The County Council will be responsible for selecting and appointing the Integrity and Compliance Officer and may remove them for cause by a majority vote. This office shall assist the County Council and local school system by providing independent evaluation and recommendations to preserve the school system's reputation and improve the effectiveness, productivity, or efficiency of school programs, policies, practices, and operations.

The County Council supports the creation of an Office of Integrity and Compliance. The consensus is that the current oversight system is failing County students. The Council agrees that it is essential to have an outside, neutral office overseeing the public school system in Prince George's County in order to be able to hold those in charge accountable. The office created by this piece of legislation will empower the County to work toward its goal of ensuring a world-class education for all of its students, regardless of zip code.

Further, this bill aligns with the recommendations provided by the Workgroup on the Membership and Operation of the Prince George's County Board of Education that was created by HB 335 during the 2022 legislative session.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council SUPPORTS PG 501-23 and respectfully requests the Committee's favorable report on this legislation.

Prepared by: Evans & Associates
On behalf of Prince George's County Council

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