

📍 Harford County Public Schools, [HCRASC](#)

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HCRASC ADVOCACY DAY 2026

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HCPS students travelled to Annapolis to share student perspectives with Maryland policymakers

Annapolis, MD — On Thursday, February 26, 2026, the Harford County Regional Association of Student Councils (HCRASC) brought 28 HCPS student delegates to the organization's Advocacy Day at the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis. Led by Regional Advisor **Jennifer Kelley**, the delegation joined student leaders from across Harford County to engage directly with lawmakers, discuss legislative priorities, and advocate for issues impacting Maryland youth. During the visit, delegates met with the Harford County elected officials, observed live parliamentary procedure in the House and Senate, and watched committee hearings on key policy issues that they noted interest in.

In the morning, students learned about current legislative initiatives from members of the Harford County Delegation and had the opportunity to engage directly by asking questions and voicing personal concerns.

Delegate Teresa E. Reilly discussed her support for fossil fuels and nuclear energy, as well as efforts to reform Maryland's Pre-K-3 system; **Delegate Steven Johnson** shared his work addressing prescription drug costs and combating human trafficking; **Senator J. B. Jennings** provided insight into how the General Assembly allocates and distributes funding across legislation; and **Delegate Michael Griffith** challenged students to remain inquisitive and principled in their leadership, stating *"When we stop asking why, we become robots. We need leaders that will keep asking why."* Additionally, **Melissa Ross**, Deputy Legislative Specialist from the Governor's Office, explained the legislative process and how different branches collaborate to move bills forward.

This year marked the second annual HCRASC Advocacy Day attended by HCPS students, continuing a growing tradition of student engagement in the legislative process. *"Advocacy Day empowered students to not just observe policy in the classroom, but go beyond and actively advocate for education,"* expressed HCRASC President Shreeya Shah. *"I hope this annual tradition continues to inspire and positively impact Harford County's future students!"*



Senator J. B. Jennings shared about HCRASC Advocacy Day on Instagram, expressing his belief that *"These young people are embarking on a journey that will be unforgettable and have the power to improve the landscape of Maryland for decades to come. We need smart, dedicated individuals who know that the representation of community values and concerns matter."*

There is significance in student advocacy and the enduring influence young leaders can have on Maryland's future, which HCRASC celebrates through its core values of civic engagement, purposeful leadership, collaboration, and elevating authentic student voice.