Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) comprises 193 local PT(S)As advocating for students, parents, family members, teachers, staff and administrators of Montgomery County Public Schools. MCCPTA’s priority is to ensure a world-class education for every student, and ensure that all students feel safe, welcome, and valued for being exactly who they are. Therefore, MCCPTA advocates for the following:

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

MCPS should apply an equity lens in all decision making processes, with the goal of access to equitable opportunities for all MCPS students, especially students historically disadvantaged based on race, sex, national origin, color, religion, or disability. They should equitably allocate resources when determining the operating and capital budget.

**Physical Environment**

MCPS should ensure a healthy environment for students, using science-based practices to limit exposure to known harmful substances in the water, air, food, and physical environment. MCPS should provide school buildings which are comfortable, safe and not overcrowded, prioritizing improvements using accurate Key Facility Indicator data. MCPS should partner with community-based organizations to provide safe routes to schools. MCPS capital budget should be funded appropriately in order to achieve these goals.

**Communication and Transparency**

MCPS should provide clear and accurate communication to students and families in multiple languages and through multiple channels: this communication should be provided in person and electronically and should consider the many different family structures and schedules. Substantial outreach and transparency around reporting the results of any surveys and feedback receive feedback before any major policy change. When possible, all data should be released as data files instead of PDF files.

**Health, Wellness and School Climate**

MCPS should ensure that all students have access to appropriate physical and mental health support, including suicide prevention. Staff should be trained to use trauma based practices and restorative practices. MCPS should address, track and reduce incidences of bias, discrimination, bullying, hatred, and sexual harassment during and after school hours and on social media. MCPS should designate an impartial ombudsman to ensure fair treatment.

**Curriculum**

Implement a curriculum that meets the needs of our diverse student population by including enrichment and appropriate challenges for all children that uses culturally-relevant materials and teaching strategies, approaches for different types of learners, and hands-on experiential learning.

**COVID-19 Emergency**

MCPS should prepare for a safe return to school, including updating HVAC systems, acquiring adequate PPE, implementing regular COVID-19 testing, and exploring additional space including outdoor and non-school buildings. Discreet cohorts of students who are experiencing significant learning loss and mental health distress should receive more resources and be prioritized when schools reopen. Distance learning should be supported by providing teachers and students with adequate technology, including those students with special needs. IEP/504 plans should be implemented during distance learning. MCPS should increase access to meals during the Covid-19 Emergency. All levels of governments should provide additional emergency funds so that these measures can be implemented.