

PROPOSED 2017-18 MCCPTA ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) is comprised of 193 local PT(S)As in Montgomery County, Maryland~~MD~~, representing approximately 200,000 students, parents, family members, teachers, staff and administrators of Montgomery County Public Schools. To ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed, regardless of income, race, ethnicity, native language, and ability, MCCPTA will advocate for MCPS to achieve the following:

- **KIRWAN COMMISSION.** MCCPTA supports state funding formulas that maximize direction of revenue to MCPS, in order to address our increasing operational needs, as Montgomery County's population and needs continue to grow. MCCPTA is committed to working with the Maryland State Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (the "Kirwan Commission") to make certain the State adheres to its Constitutional mandate to provide adequate resources for public education. The Kirwan Commission should promote:
 - o Safeguarding current funding formulas, and avoiding untried/unproven alternatives;
 - o Providing eEvery child withreceiving high quality (accountable) instruction to meet each students's particular needs;
 - o Keeping cClass sizes remaining limited, to advance appropriately individualized education; and
 - o Providing eEarly childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents.
- ~~REVITALIZATION/EXPANSION. MCPS should engage in a robust dialogue with the community in creating/implementing an equitable process to determine how and when schools are modernized. It is imperative that options are fully explained to parents and staff before decisions are made to relieve students affected by aging buildings. MCPS should solicit considerable input from the community throughout the process. MCPS should work to ensure student-staf ratios and new facilities are optimized to reduce school overcrowding and specialized instruction.~~
- **OPERATING AND CAPITAL FUNDING DUE TO ENROLLMENT.** Enrollment in MCPS schools continues to grow at a tremendous rate, putting pressure on our staff and administrators to keep pace with the number of students they have to teach in the classrooms and our buildings to house those students. MCCPTA will continue to advocate for an increase in both operating and capital budgets at all levels of funding sources (local, state, federal) to address the needs created by MCPS' growing enrollment.
- **EQUITABLE MCPS FUNDING.** Distribution of MCPS funding, programs, resources and staff should be equitable based on the needs of individual schools and student populations and should ensure that class sizes are appropriately limited across the County. Boundaries and Rresources should be

Commented [JY1]: Not all of these things are within MCPS's control.

Commented [JY2]: I would move this paragraph to after the discussion about the funding issues to keep all the funding issues together. It is a good segue from funding to programmatic.

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Commented [JY3]: I don't think this should be included here While boundary changes are a hot button issue in themselves and can be very divisive, I just don't think they are a solution to a resource issue – an enrollment issue maybe, but not a resource issue. If a cluster is not getting enough resources, MCPS should be putting more resources into it, it shouldn't be trying to solve the problem by taking resources from another cluster and moving them around. The answer to low-performing schools is not moving "richer neighborhoods" into the schools, it is MCPS making an investment into those lower performing schools with more programs, initiatives and qualified staff.

Commented [JY4]: I think the point is we want equitable opportunities, not equal because we want what each school needs, not necessarily the same thing for everyone.

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Commented [JY5]: I don't think this should be included here While boundary changes are a hot button issue in themselves and can be very divisive, I just don't think they are a solution to a resource issue – an enrollment issue maybe, but not a resource issue. If a cluster is not getting enough resources, MCPS should be putting more resources into it, it shouldn't be trying to solve the problem by taking resources from another cluster and moving them around. The answer to low-performing schools is not moving "richer neighborhoods" into the schools, it is MCPS making an investment into those lower performing schools with more programs, initiatives and qualified staff.

adjusted with community input, as needed to ensure that students in low-performing schools receive equal/equitable opportunities toas those in high-performing schools.

Commented [JY6]: I think the point is we want equitable opportunities, not equal because we want what each school needs, not necessarily the same thing for everyone.

- **REVITALIZATION/EXPANSION.** MCPS should engage in a robust dialogue with the community in creating/implementing an equitable process to determine how and when schools are modernized, including clear criteria to help the community to understand why certain schools were chosen while others were not.. It is imperative that options are fully explained to parents and staff before decisions are made to relieve students affected by aging buildings that will not be modernized. MCPS should solicit considerable input from the community throughout the process. MCPS should work to ensure student-staff ratios and new facilities are optimized to reduce school overcrowding and specialized instruction.

Commented [JY7]: I'm not sure exactly what is trying to be conveyed here. Perhaps the authors could try to clarify.

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- **ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS.** Academic options such as International Baccalaureate, Honors, or Advanced Placement programs should be made available to all eligible students, including through creative, research-based means, such as distance learning, to address the aAchievement/oppportunity gap. MCPS must ensure that all students - high achievers, grade-level learners and those with special needs - are offered the most challenging coursework suitable to their abilities.
- **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.** In furtherance of closing achievement gaps and supporting Montgomery County families, MCCPTA supports implementation of universal pre-kindergarten schooling across the county. Such an initiative would broaden access to such educational opportunities beyond other worthwhile federally supported programs such as Head Start and Early Childhood}, which have demonstrated their success into addressing the aAchievement gap that currently exists in MCPSMontgomery County Schools.
- **WELLNESS.** MCCPTA supports expansion of available wellness resources to MCPS students, including mental health services. Additionally, MCCPTA recommends an increased focus on the social-emotional benefits of improving nutrition for the well-being of both students and staff.
- **SECURITY.** MCPS should ensure the safety of all children in its public-schools by establishing secure buildings, an increased focus on adequate security staff at all schools, and prompt and transparent reporting of incidents within schools and criminal activity near schools or involving students. MCCPTA encourages MCPS to evaluate the impact of new disciplinary policies on school safety/security.
- **COMMUNICATION.** Continued MCCPTA-MCPS partnership is required to ensure parents are thoroughly aware of major policy, funding, or procedural changes, such as myMCPS, new elementary report cards, math pathways, course options and other system-wide efforts that affect the success of students.- MCCPTA supports offering this information to parents in their native language, given the diversity of the County.

- **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION.** MCCPTA supports the values of diversity and inclusion throughout MCPS and in the classroom and encourages MCPS to take a strong stand against hate speech and any symbols of hate found on school property while promoting cultural sensitivity and tolerance.

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