# Big Learning

MCCPTA Educational Programs Inc., which now does business as ***Big Learning***, was founded in 1975 by MCCPTA to provide high quality and affordable educational enrichment programs for children in Pre-K through 8th grade. Our programs focus on experiential and play-based learning, inspiring children's curiosity and excitement about learning. For over 45 years, Big Learning FLES and Science & Engineering programs have proudly enriched the lives of over 150,000 students in more than 100 schools across Montgomery County, MD.

Big Learning usually offers classes before and after school, as well as half-day workshops, school-day programs, and presentations about enrichment learning. Big Learning also offers programs through Excel Beyond the Bell at several middle schools.

In this exceptional year, Big Learning is offering virtual classes via Zoom. There are a variety of time slots to choose from. Most classes are open to students across the county and beyond, but if there is a request from a school community, Big Learning will set up a class just for that school or neighborhood. All instructional materials are delivered to students' homes prior to the start of the classes.

In response to a need for high quality preschool programs, Big Learning is also offering a weekly craft program for 4 and 5 year old children as well as a story time for 3 and 4 year olds.

If your PTA is interested in sponsoring Big Learning programs in your school, or if you have any questions concerning our programs, please contact us using the information listed below.

## Big Learning Program Descriptions and Contact Information
Mailing Address: Spring Mill Center, 11721 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902
Pony Address: Spring Mill Center, Room 200
Website: www.biglearning.org      Email: admin@biglearning.org

### Executive Director: Jane de Winter
Phone: 301-326-1969   Email: exec@biglearning.org

### Foreign Language in Elementary Schools: FLES

Big Learning Foreign Language: FLES offers quality, immersion-based foreign language classes in Spanish, Mandarin Chinese and French for children in Kindergarten through sixth grade as well as a Spanish Literacy program for native Spanish speakers. Children have fun and enjoy learning new languages from native speakers as they explore foreign lands through exciting stories, high-energy games, and imaginative interactive activities. With FLES, children gain confidence in hearing and speaking a new language and cultural awareness – opening doors to a global 21st century.

### Director: Kirsten Rhodes
Phone: 301-592-0861     Email: fles@biglearning.org

# Big Learning

**Science and Engineering (Formerly Hands On Science):**

Big Learning Science & Engineering, formerly Hands On Science and Big Learning KID, sparks the curiosity in children with playful, interactive, hands-on science and engineering activities for children Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade. By actively participating in exciting experiments and projects, our students explore the fundamentals of science, engineering and the scientific method. Our students also develop the critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and creativity skills needed to become innovators for life.

Phone: 301-244-5254    Email: science@biglearning.org

**Cultural Arts Showcase**:

This program sponsors a three-day event that occurs in late September and early October. This event showcases the talents of a variety of performers who are interested in performing for the children of MCPS in assemblies at the local schools.  The PTA Cultural Arts Chairpersons are invited to this showcase so they will be able to make informed decisions about the assemblies in which their students will participate.  All performers have been given prior approval by the Department of Academic Programs for MCPS.

**Director:  Seda Gelenian**
Phone: 301-540-4180    Email: sedagelenian@gmail.com

### MCCPTA-EPI Board of Directors:

**Rick Stanley**, President
**Mary Carvajal**, Vice President
**Karin Green,** Secretary/Treasurer
**Shebra Evans,** Board Member
**Lynne Harris,** Board Member
**Dawn Watkins-Chow**, Board Member