



## 2016-17 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) is comprised of 193 local PT(S)As in Montgomery County, MD, representing nearly 50,000 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:

### **IN THE CLASSROOM: Close the Achievement/Opportunity Gap and Improve Success for All Students**

- Hire and retain more diverse classroom staff, with increased implicit bias and cultural sensitivity training for all staff
- Expand acceleration and enrichment in PreK-3
- Increase professional development for teachers regarding curriculum implementation
- Encourage timely, data-driven monitoring to measure and report whole school performance
- Continue to reduce class sizes
- Increase school support staff such as, but not limited to, counselors, nurses and paraeducators, and make staff allocations based upon school size and need
- Retain math 4/5 and 5/6 stand alone classes for all students who need above grade-level challenges
- Set clear goals for completing technology rollout, and seek innovative uses of technology to support learning
- Expand foreign language instruction by offering more languages and elementary instruction
- Review the impact of revised bell times and start dates and continue dialogue with community
- Increase the number of elementary instrumental music teachers, and support additional staffing and funding for all levels of instrumental music instruction
- Measure successful outcomes by monitoring and reviewing each student's individual progress and report to parents
- Accurately identify and provide appropriate resources, accommodations, technology and staff training to support students receiving Special Education services or English Language Learners and their families
- Provide explicit curriculum enrichment and acceleration for students identified as GT in all grade levels
- Improve advocacy and awareness of student mental health services
- Investigate creative ways to expand AP course offerings in schools with low enrollment
- Expand unique academic offerings to include something for each middle or high school

### **IN OUR BUILDINGS: Increase funding for continued development of safe, modern schools**

- Fund Revitalization/Expansion (Rev/Ex) and capacity projects. Consider projected enrollment, school's physical condition, impact of overcrowding, lifecycle costs of relocatable classrooms and student/staff safety when planning Rev/Ex projects
- Re-evaluate conditions of all schools in an unbiased, objective manner to determine Rev/Ex placement
- Coordinate planning and policy for necessary school capacity in concert with the county planning process
- Repair and replace HVAC systems

### **IN OUR COMMUNITY: Encourage an equitable education for all students**

- Encourage county leaders to address current and future overcrowding issues
- Improve efforts to engage all families and stakeholders through community outreach, improved communications and multilingual outreach
- Address the growing safety issue of gang violence in communities surrounding our schools
- Encourage bullying prevention programs in all schools and empower students to address interpersonal conflicts in a constructive manner
- Expand academic and enrichment after school programs through community partnerships and expand access to transportation for extracurricular programs and Saturday School
- Promote continued improvement in nutritious food choices and availability