



PROPOSED 2017-18 MCCPTA ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children, MCCPTA's advocacy priorities for 2017-18 are:

STATE FUNDING & POLICIES.

The Maryland State Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (Kirwan Commission) should produce strategic evidence-based policy priorities designed to ensure all Maryland students have the educational resources required to meet their potential, along with strategic funding recommendations to make the policy reality.

OPERATING AND CAPITAL FUNDING DUE TO ENROLLMENT.

Increases in operating and capital funding should be made to address the needs created by MCPS' growing enrollment, and increasingly diverse student population

FUNDING TO ACHIEVE EQUITY

Decisions about MCPS funding, programs, resources and staff should be based upon an assessment of the actual needs of each school and its student population, and not a vision of equity that says every school/student gets the same.

REVITALIZATION/EXPANSION PROJECTS (aka Rev/Ex).

MCPS should pursue robust communication with all communities as MCPS reforms decision-making processes associated with addressing the needs of our aging infrastructure.

ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS.

Advanced academic options (e.g. AP, IB, etc.) should be made available to all eligible students, including through distance learning, to address the achievement/opportunity gap.

WELLNESS.

MCPS should expand mental health services, air/water testing, and school nutrition improvements.

SECURITY.

MCPS should ensure adequate security staff, prompt/transparent reporting of incidents and ongoing transparent evaluation of the impacts of new disciplinary policies on safety/security.

COMMUNICATION.

Continued MCCPTA-MCPS partnership is required to ensure parents are aware of major policy, funding, or procedural changes. Information should be provided in parents' native languages.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION.

MCPS should expand work in our school system to promote cultural sensitivity and tolerance. We applaud MCPS' strong stand against hate speech and symbols on school property, and encourage the development of additional initiatives to make sure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who they are.