
2020-21 MCCPTA ADVOCACY PRIORITIES*

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:

COVID-19 Emergency

Deliver the curriculum with fidelity to every student while the COVID-19 crisis is ongoing through the utilization of virtual and in-person learning in a developmentally appropriate manner. Provide resources to cohorts of students who are experiencing significant learning loss and mental health distress so that they may thrive. Prepare for a safe return to school buildings in the Covid-19 environment, guided by evidence-based, specific, and transparent criteria, including additional space, equipment and supplies that may be needed. Audit existing HVAC systems and update to increase ventilation and filtration in order to reduce exposure to COVID-19. Provide a choice of hybrid and virtual options for all students, transparent communication, and a clear timeline for a safe return to classrooms.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Ensure access to equitable opportunities and an excellent education for all MCPS students, especially students historically disadvantaged based on race, sex, ancestry or national origin, color, religion or creed, sexual identity, gender identity, or physical or mental disability (differing abilities). Ensure equitable allocations of resources for school facilities and operations. Identify goals based on the findings of the Anti-Racist System Audit and the evaluation of the ESOL model.

Health, Wellness and School Climate

Provide all students equitable access to appropriate physical and mental health support, including access to food. Fully implement restorative and trauma based practices. Address, track and reduce incidences of bias, discrimination, bullying, hatred, and sexual harassment of students. Designate an impartial ombudsman to guide families in navigating the complexities of the system and ensure fair treatment. Ensure a healthy physical environment for students in facilities and buses, providing spaces which are comfortable, safe and not overcrowded. Work with other entities to provide safe passage to schools.

Communication and Transparency

Promote clear and accurate communication to our diverse population of stakeholders in multiple languages and through multiple channels regarding the education (including performance metrics) and wellbeing of MCPS students. Communication methods should consider the many different family structures and schedules. Conduct substantial outreach to solicit feedback before any major policy change and ensure transparency around reporting the results of any surveys and feedback. When possible, all data should be released as accessible data files.

Curriculum

Implement a culturally-relevant 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.

*Priorities were passed by the Delegates Assembly during a meeting making use of a virtual platform in which all members were able to simultaneously, clearly communicate and electronically stream each other and participate in the meeting.