

Since December 1 -- Meetings/Calls/Events:

- 12/2 Meeting with Superintendent
- 12/3 State BOE Meeting -- Virtual
- 12/3 LES PTA Meeting
- 12/4 Delegates Assembly
- 12/5 OCTO Meeting on Cell Phone Usage
- 12/11 MCEA Parent Meeting
- 12/12 BOD Meeting
- 12/13 Committee Montgomery Breakfast
- 12/17 Meeting with Curriculum Committee, OCIP, OSSI
- 12/18 Budget Rollout
- 12/20 Parent-Teacher Exchange
- 1/03 MCEA Legislative Reception
- 1/04 Operating Budget Forum/Kirwan Forum
- 1/08 Meeting with Superintendent
- 1/09 Testimony before BOE

Key Activities/Concerns:

- 1) **MISA requirements** – I continue to follow up on the plan for MISA implementation. As noted in previous months, for two more years “taking” the MISA fulfills the graduation requirement (rather than having to pass). MCPS (as of mid-December) had not yet received the cut scores to determine how previous test-takers did on the assessment.
 - a. I have asked MSDE to address the rationale for giving an assessment based on 3 years of content, knowing there is some information that may not have been accessed for 2+ years.
 - b. MSDE has responded and will address this issue at the January State BOE meeting.
- 2) **Graduation Requirements** – a Graduation Task Force has recommended changes to completion requirements. Of note, Health Education is recommended to increase the credit requirement from .5 to 1.0 and Technology Education to remain at 1.0 (whereas previously it was expected to drop to .5 credit).
 - a. Both these graduation requirements are offered to MCPS students online for a fee (\$300 for the 1 semester health course; \$600 for the 2 semester tech credits). In a recent meeting with Office of Curriculum Instruction and Programs (OCIP), we learned the following for Summer/Fall 2019:
 - i. Health – 1758 students accessed online; lowest enrollment for a single school - 4; highest enrollment for a single school -- 208.
 - ii. Foundations of Technology – 215 students accessed online; lowest – 0; highest 28.
 - iii. Foundations of Computer Science – 100 students accessed online; lowest – 0 (several schools); highest – 15.
 - b. Students often take these courses in the summer to free up space in their schedules to make room for classes that interest them. For some it is getting another rigorous course; for others it is something that sparks joy! We want to explore where the online course is being accessed a little more and also talk about “summer school” options available to meet these requirements that are offered at some schools but not others.
- 3) **[MCPS 2019 AP/IB Participation and Performance](https://mccptaadvocacy.blogspot.com/2018/02/ap-advocacy-5-steps-to-5-guest-blogger.html)**: You know this is my favorite report and my New Year’s present was seeing this posted so early in the year (I’m sure it’s all that good living). I won’t bore you with all the ways I love this report but invite you to read my “guest blog” from a couple of years ago. Most of it is all still true! Special bonus with this year’s edition of the AP/IB report, specific IB information by course and by school for the most popular IB courses. I’m giddy!
<https://mccptaadvocacy.blogspot.com/2018/02/ap-advocacy-5-steps-to-5-guest-blogger.html>