

PROPOSED 2018-19 MCCPTA ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) is comprised of 193 local PT(S)As in Montgomery County, Maryland, representing approximately 200,000 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 to for the following:

- **KIRWAN COMMISSION.** MCCPTA supports state funding formulas that address MCPS's increasing operational needs, as Montgomery County's population and needs continue to grow. MCCPTA is committed to working with the Maryland State Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (the "Kirwan Commission") to make certain the State adheres to its Constitutional mandate to provide adequate resources for public education. The Kirwan Commission should promote:
 - Safeguarding current funding formulas and avoiding untried/unproven alternatives;
 - Providing every child with high quality (accountable) instruction to meet each student's particular needs;
 - Keeping class sizes limited to advance appropriately individualized education; and
 - Providing early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents.
 - We support the ballot measure to amend the State Constitution to use Casino Money to supplement, not supplant the Education Budget.
- **OPERATING AND CAPITAL FUNDING DUE TO ENROLLMENT.** MCCPTA will continue to advocate for an increase in both operating and capital budgets at all levels of funding sources (local, state, federal) to address the needs created by MCPS' growing enrollment.
- **EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES.** All children in MCPS should be offered equitable opportunities to engage in challenging and diverse programming, including equitable access to multiple career paths. Classes should be an optimal size for learning according to the needs of a particular group of students. Academic options should be made available to all eligible students including through distance learning or other creative solutions. Adequate support should be provided to schools when implementing the home school models for enrichment at the primary and middle school levels. MCPS must ensure that all students -gifted learners, grade-level learners, ESOL students and those with special needs - are offered the most challenging coursework suitable to their abilities.
- **CURRICULUM.** MCCPTA supports MCPS's decision to obtain a new curriculum. MCPS should engage all stakeholders in this review. Any curriculum should include a balance of digital and analog materials. Curriculum should include enrichment at all levels.
- **REVITALIZATION/EXPANSION.** MCPS should implement an equitable process to determine how and when schools are modernized and share all data collected used to determine the Key Facility Indicators. MCPS should solicit considerable input from the community throughout the process. This program should balance the need to renovate schools and the need to relieve capacity. All children deserve adequate learning spaces.
- **WELLNESS.** MCCPTA supports expansion of available wellness resources to MCPS students, including mental health services, suicide prevention, and supports to students addicted to substances. MCPS should incorporate trauma informed and restorative justice practices. To ensure a safe physical environment, MCPS should

appropriately test air and water quality and use health based standards to guide remediation if the quality does not reach such standards. School fields should be adequately installed and maintained to ensure the safety of children during outdoor activities. Additionally, MCCPTA recommends an increased focus on the social-emotional benefits of improving nutrition for the well-being of both students and staff.

- **SECURITY.** MCPS should ensure the safety of all children in its schools by establishing secure buildings including providing a secure vestibule, providing adequate video surveillance, and providing adequate security staff at all schools. MCPS should provide prompt and transparent reporting of incidents within schools and criminal activity near schools or involving students.
- **COMMUNICATION.** Continued MCCPTA-MCPS partnership is required to ensure parents are thoroughly aware of major policy, funding, or procedural changes when implementing local or system-wide efforts that affect the education of students. This partnership should include receiving feedback before implementation is planned. MCCPTA supports offering this information to parents in their native language, given the diversity of the County.
- **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION.** MCCPTA supports the values of diversity and inclusion throughout MCPS and in the classroom. All of these diverse voices must be considered and have direct input into the decision making process when any policy is implemented. Educational outcomes for the diverse student body must be considered when implementing any policy, including boundary decisions. MCCPTA encourages MCPS to take a strong stand against hate speech and any symbols of hate found on school property while promoting cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Anti-bullying initiatives are important to make all kids feel welcome. MCCPTA supports the rights of all children with special needs to a free appropriate public education, and the right to that education in the least restrictive environment.