

PROPOSED 2018-19 MCCPTA ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) is comprised of 193 local PT(S)As 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 for the following:

- **KIRWAN COMMISSION.** MCCPTA supports fair state funding formulas that address MCPS's increasing operational needs, as Montgomery County's population and needs continue to grow. The Kirwan Commission (Maryland State Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education) should promote proven high quality instruction to meet each student's need, promote reducing class sizes in Montgomery County, and provide high quality early childhood education. MCCPTA supports the State Constitution Amendment to use casino money to supplement, not supplant the Education Budget.
- **OPERATING AND CAPITAL FUNDS.** MCCPTA supports an increase in the MCPS operating and capital budgets at all levels of funding sources (local, state, federal.) We support increasing funds per student, so MCPS may decrease class sizes, increase resources to close the achievement gap, and provide adequate, safe facilities. MCCPTA supports a Subdivision Staging Policy which includes alternative calculations of student generation to better project student 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. Academic options should be made available to all eligible students including through distance learning, by providing transportation, or other creative solutions. Adequate support should be provided to schools when implementing the home school models for special education and 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 accurately identified and offered the most challenging coursework suitable to their abilities.
- **CURRICULUM.** MCCPTA supports MCPS's decision to provide an improved curriculum. MCPS should engage all stakeholders in this review. Curriculum should include enrichment and appropriate challenge for all children. When implementing the curriculum, teachers should have ample time to train and review materials. MCPS should develop best practices by grade level for digital content in the classroom and review how time spent on screens in relate to outcomes.
- **Adequate Facilities.** MCPS should share all Key Facility Indicator data collected and collaborate with the community when exploring solutions to overcrowding and improving aging facilities. The socioeconomic makeup of the school population should be a factor in prioritization. **MCPS should look at opportunities to fill empty seats in underutilized**

schools by incorporating creative programming solutions or analyzing boundaries at those schools so that nearby overcrowded schools may be relieved.

- **WELLNESS.** MCCPTA supports expansion of available wellness resources to MCPS students, including mental health services, suicide prevention, and supports to students addicted to substances. 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 appropriately installed, maintained, and monitored to ensure the safety of children during outdoor activities. Additionally, MCCPTA recommends improving nutrition and quality in school provided meals for the well-being of students.
- 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. 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.