

Student Emerging Leaders Program

Black Congressional Legislative Caucus



Montgomery County Public Schools— Student Affairs Office

301-670-1419 Karen_L_Crawford@mcpsmd.org

Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education

301-279-3700 Claudia.Cadavid@mcbre.org

August 11, 2011

Congratulations! You are one of the selected Montgomery County Public Schools students participating in the *Student Emerging Leaders Program* which includes attending the Annual Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference. The conference will be held on Thursday, September 22, 2011, at the Washington Convention Center. Buses will be leaving from two locations in Montgomery County in the early morning and returning at approximately 4:30 p.m. All student conference and transportation fees will be covered.

You **MUST** attend an orientation session to ensure you understand ALL of your responsibilities as a result of being in this very selective Student Emerging Leaders Program. There are two orientation sessions from which to choose. The first will be held on Wednesday, August 31, 2011, 6:00–7:00 p.m., at John F. Kennedy High School, 1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20902. The second option is Tuesday, September 6, 2011, 7:30–8:30 p.m., at Quince Orchard HS, 15800 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20878. Both orientation sessions will take place in the school's cafeteria. Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged and welcome to attend.

On the day of the Legislative Conference, students will attend sessions that they have chosen. A professional advisor from the business community will escort each student. At the end of the conference day, students will work together to select several topics/issues discussed by the congressional legislators that were of special interest to them. Students will then be assigned a position on a selected topic/issue and be placed into work groups of two to three students and one professional advisor.

After the conference, you will meet three separate times with your assigned group and professional advisor to research and/or discuss the assigned position before the Local Issues Forum in February. Students will be placed in groups that are geographically close to other group members and/or their professional advisor. If a student cannot attend a meeting, a maximum of **one** meeting can be made up via teleconference.

With your group, you will research your assigned position on your topic/issue. On Monday, February 6, 2012, from 6:30–8:30 p.m., at the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850, your group will present their findings in the form of a mock debate against another student group that has prepared the opposing position on your issue. After the debate, if there is time, you will have the opportunity to discuss several local youth related issues before the Maryland General Assembly.

Students who meet all of the program's completion requirements are invited to attend a reception early next year with Representative Christopher Van Hollen and Representative Donna Edwards, both of whom represent Montgomery County, on Capitol Hill.

For your convenience, a copy of the field trip permission form is enclosed (Enclosure A) as well as the information you may have received earlier this year (Enclosure B). Please be sure you bring the signed permission form when you attend either the August 1 or September 6, 2011, orientation session.

We look forward to having you participate in this exciting program! If you have any questions, please contact Karen Crawford or Claudia Cadavid at the contacts listed above.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Crawford
Student Affairs Coordinator
Montgomery County Public Schools

Claudia Cadavid
Director of Programs
Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education

Enclosures

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS—Student Affairs Office
 1200 Main Street Gaithersburg, MD 20878 301-670-1419 fax 301-670-1407

Please return this completed permission form at the orientation session.

Student Emerging Leaders Program

Annual Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference

PARENTAL APPROVAL FOR FIELD TRIP

Date: Thursday, September 22, 2011 **Destination:** Washington Convention Center
Field Trip Objective: Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference

Transportation Options

- Round Trip:** MCPS Bus—Eastern Middle School (departure 7:00 a.m./return 4:00 p.m.)
 300 University Blvd East, Silver Spring, 20901 (be at the back of the school at 6:45 a.m.)
- One Way:** morning bus from Eastern MS / provide own transportation home
- One Way:** return bus back to Eastern MS / provide own transportation to the conference



- Round Trip:** MCPS Bus—Neelsville Middle School (departure 6:30 a.m./return 4:15 p.m.)
 11700 Neelsville Church Road, Germantown, 20876 (be at the school at 6:15 a.m.)
- One Way:** morning bus from Neelsville MS / provide own transportation home
- One Way:** return bus back to Neelsville MS / provide own transportation to the conference



- Round Trip:** I will provide transportation for my child to attend this program
 (Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. -
 use the L Street entrance). I understand that MCPS registration starts at 8:00 a.m. and the
 event is over at 3:00 p.m.



MUST BRING A BAG LUNCH OR MONEY TO PURCHASE LUNCH.

Students who hold the student accident policy available at the beginning of each school year or at the time of entry are covered on an approved field trip within the liability limits of the policy as described in the insurance brochure. The Montgomery County Board of Education maintains public school bus liability insurance with the limits required by the Maryland State Department of Education. Parents should be concerned that they provide such additional coverage as they may desire in excess of the above stated limits.

Student name: _____ **Student ID#:** _____
School: _____

Do you give permission for this student to go on the above stated field trip? YES NO

I also consent to the use of my son/daughter's picture (no names) to be posted to the MCPS website or to be used on related sites and slide shows relating to the program. YES NO

Parent's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____
Emergency Phone Number: _____

My parents have approved my participation in the field trip listed above. I know that I am responsible for making up all work that I miss during my absence from classes. I also am aware that I am representing all students in my school and will behave in an ethical and professional manner.

Student's Signature: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

If you have an emergency the morning of the trip, please call:
 Eastern MS: Claudia Cadavid 301-580-5305 or Neelsville MS: Karen Crawford at 301-318-6384

Student Emerging Leaders Program Congressional Black Caucus

Program Overview

The Student Emerging Leaders Program, a partnership of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and the Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education (MCBRE), is designed to nurture student interest in national, state, and local government by engaging and inspiring students to become the next generation of Black and Black leaders, through a combination of a mentoring relationship, peer-to-peer engagement and accountability, and interactive student debate.

Rising sophomores (current freshmen) from each high school, who hold a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better and are eligible based on the program criteria, will have the opportunity to apply via online application and be selected to participate in the Black Caucus conference, Tuesday, September 13, 2011, or the Black Caucus conference, Thursday, September 22, 2011. Both conferences will be held at the Washington Convention Center.

Conference and transportation costs to and from designated pick-up and drop-off points will be covered. Detailed transportation information will be sent to selected students and posted on the Web. Student absences from school for the fall conference and spring reception are approved.

Semester I:

Prior to participating in the fall conference, students must—

- successfully complete the online application;
- be selected to participate by the review board comprised of MCBRE and MCPS;
- accept the nomination to participate in the program by returning the signed commitment form; and
- attend a preconference meeting to receive up-to-date information, meet with their fellow participants, and be introduced to their professional advisor, who has volunteered to work specifically with them throughout the program.

Attend the legislative conference

- After participating in the legislative conference, students will vote for two topics that they believe are the most important topics affecting their communities. These topics will be voted for on the day of the conference, and can be topics that were presented at the conference or appropriate outside issues. Students then will be assigned a position on the selected topic or issue and be placed into work groups of two to three students and one professional advisor.

Meet and Research

- Students meet three separate times with their assigned group and professional advisor to research and/or discuss the assigned position before the mock debate and Local Issues Forum. Students will be placed in groups that are geographically close to other group members and/or their professional advisor. If a student cannot attend a meeting, a maximum of **one** meeting can be made up via teleconference.

Semester II:

Participate in the Local Issues Forum

- Students must attend the Local Issues Forum with their professional advisor and other group members, and work with other students to defend their position by participating in a mock debate. At this event, students also will participate in discussions on youth-related bills before the Maryland General Assembly.

Attend the Congressional Reception

- Students completing all requirements are invited to attend, with one guest, a reception with Congressman Christopher Van Hollen and Congresswoman Donna Edwards (February/March date to be determined).

Please refer questions to Mrs. Karen L. Crawford, coordinator, Student Affairs, Department of Student Services, at 301-670-1419 or via e-mail at Karen_L_Crawford@mcpsmd.org.

Detailed Information

Application Process

- On or before April 15, 2011, student completes the online application (Attachment B) at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/studentaffairs/sao/emergingleaders/index.shtm#application.
- On or before April 29, 2011, the review board, comprised of representatives from MCBRE and MCPS, will notify selected students.

- Selected student must fax the signed commitment form (Attachment C) to Mrs. Crawford, at 301-670-1407 by the May 11, 2011, deadline. Students placed on the wait list will be notified if they are accepted to participate by May 16, 2011, and must return the signed commitment form by the May 27, 2011, deadline.

Congressional Black Caucus Preconference meeting options (student must attend one)

- Tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 31, 2011, 6:00–7:00 p.m., at John F. Kennedy High School, 1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902.
- Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 6, 2011, 7:30–8:30 p.m., at Quince Orchard HS, 15800 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20878.

Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference

- Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2011, at the Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. Permission forms must be submitted by Wednesday, September 7, 2011.

Topic research and group meetings with professional advisor

- Students meet three separate times (October, November-December, and January) with their assigned group and professional advisor to research and/or discuss the assigned position before the February 6, 2012, mock debate and Local Issues Forum. Students will be placed in groups that are geographically close to other group members and/or their professional advisor. If a student cannot attend a meeting, a maximum of one meeting can be made up via teleconference.

Local Issues Forum

- On Monday, February 6, 2012, 6:30–8:30 p.m., at the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850, students will participate in a mock debate on the assigned topic/position and take part in the discussion on several youth-related bills currently filed in the Maryland General Assembly.

Congressional Reception

- Semester II (February/March date to be determined)