



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



Bill: House Bill 109
Title: Food Transparency Act
Committee: Ways and Means
Date: February 4, 2016
Position: **NO POSITION**
Contact: Michael Durso, President, Montgomery County Board of Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education takes no position on House Bill 109.

The health and safety of our students is a top priority for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). As such, menus are written and available for all meals and snacks served to students. Elementary school students receive menus that are taken home; menus include offerings for breakfast and lunch and information regarding a la carte items. As a la carte offerings vary among schools, parents and guardians are instructed to contact their cafeteria manager for specific information regarding the items available at their child's school. Elementary and secondary school menus are available on the MCPS website in English and Spanish. All menus are posted in school cafeterias.

Additionally, all breakfast and lunch menus include calorie information. Nutrient and allergen information for all foods and beverages available to students is available on the MCPS website. The MCPS Division of Food and Nutrition Services (DFNS) provides specific ingredient information upon request. All menus meet or exceed United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations; all a la carte items are in compliance with USDA, Maryland State Department of Education, and MCPS regulations. Individually packaged a la carte items have nutrient and ingredient information. In the spirit of transparency, DFNS currently is working with MCPS Web Services to develop a program so ingredient information is available on the DFNS website for all foods and beverages served. DFNS also is working with MCPS Web Services to provide the ability to view labels; this should not be mandatory for school districts.

However, dissemination of information by individual schools can be recommended; legislation mandating is not appropriate.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Education, thank you for your consideration.