



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



Bill: House Bill 474
Title: Elementary School Students - Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness Act)
Committee: Ways and Means
Date: February 18, 2016
Position: **OPPOSE**
Contact: Michael Durso, President, Montgomery County Board of Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes House Bill 474.

This legislation would require that public elementary school students be provided a daily program of physical activity totaling 150 minutes each week, including at least 90 minutes of physical education. Any minutes not consisting of physical education shall consist of developmentally appropriate, moderate to vigorous physical activity, including recess.

Scheduling increased time for physical education into the instructional day is difficult during a period of fiscal constraints and the decision should be left up to local jurisdictions. Currently, the issue of increasing students' physical activity during the school day is being addressed in Montgomery County Public Schools through newly developed elementary physical education curriculum and the opportunity for physical activity during recess. In elementary schools, up to 50 minutes of instruction in physical education per week are recommended currently, and recess provides students 30 minutes of time to exercise each day. With the new elementary physical education curriculum, teachers have resources to meet their students' needs in the current time scheduled for elementary physical education.

House Bill 247 places a significant financial burden on MCPS related to finding resources for instructional materials and equipment, staffing, curriculum and assessment development, professional development, and teaching space. Furthermore, the effective date does not allow enough time to secure instructional materials, hire qualified staff, communicate with students and parents, and determine implications for scheduling.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Education, thank you for your consideration and we urge an unfavorable report.