



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



Bill: House Bill 72  
Title: Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program - Development and Implementation  
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 72.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) take issues of sexual harassment and child abuse very seriously, and in the past year, MCPS has established strong protocols, guidelines and training. House Bill 0072 mandates the development and implementation of a sexual abuse and assault program. MCPS has such a program, and it is currently integrated in the health education program. Additionally, a multidisciplinary work group redesigned the systemic plan for child abuse and neglect in MCPS.

As a result of this work group, MCPS sought out and received a Maryland State Department of Education Grant-Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Project to develop high school lessons and provide all high school health education teachers a one-day training for lesson implementation currently provides instruction on sexual abuse and assault awareness. Furthermore, age-appropriate content and instruction on child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse and assault awareness are currently within the comprehensive health education program in Grades 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 10 and enhancements are being made to increase the frequency of instruction in Grades K-Grade 9 with counselor led lessons. Middle school health education teachers received training on sexual abuse and assault included in the revised health education curriculum in summer 2015. Counselors received training on new child abuse and neglect including sexual abuse and assault lessons during spring 2015.

However, we believe it to be imperative that Local Education Agencies (LEAs) have the ability to determine the curriculum needs of their system. The myriad of curriculum mandates have constricted LEAs authority to offer a comprehensive health education program.

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