



## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



Bill: Senate Bill 269  
Title: Public School Holidays - Veterans' Day  
Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Date: February 3, 2016  
Position: **OPPOSE**  
Contact: Michael Durso, President, Montgomery County Board of Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes Senate Bill 269.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) appreciates the intent to honor veterans who have given so much. However, school-related calendar decisions should be determined locally and based on meeting the academic needs of our students, providing professional development for our faculties, and honoring the wishes of our communities.

Meeting the 180-day school calendar regulation is a complex issue. Adding another mandated school holiday, although well intended, further complicates the issue of teaching and learning during November. It is critical that local school systems maintain local control of school calendars, and it also permits local communities the decision making authority to respond to parent needs. Furthermore, the potential costs of closing on an additional day is approximately \$1.1 million.

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