



# **MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



Bill: Senate Bill 461  
Title: Education - Prekindergarten Students - Funding  
Committee: Budget and Taxation  
Date: February 24, 2015  
Position: **STRONGLY SUPPORT**  
Contact: Michael Durso, President, Montgomery County Board of Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education strongly supports Senate Bill 461.

For purposes of calculating state aid for education, prekindergarten student enrollment is not part of the formula used for determining how much state aid that Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) receives each year. This bill would modify the enrollment used in the state aid formula to now include the number of students enrolled in half-day and full-day prekindergarten.

Montgomery County has the fourth largest number of prekindergarten sites of the 24 local education agencies. MCPS has 63 sites where prekindergarten classes are held and also provides a significant amount of full-day prekindergarten to these eligible students. Under this bill, providing full-day prekindergarten would remain entirely at the discretion of the local board - but when it is provided it would be fully funded. Mandated prekindergarten benefits our most vulnerable economically disadvantaged children and local efforts to serve these students should receive the full benefit of the education funding formulas that apply to all other students.

For these reasons, we strongly support this bill and ask for a favorable report.