



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



Bill: Senate Bill 494
Title: School Behavioral Health Accountability Act
Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Date: February 24, 2015
Position: **SUPPORT**
Contact: Michael Durso, President, Montgomery County Board of Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports Senate Bill 494.

Senate Bill charges the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and county boards of education, with creating a reporting system to measure the efficacy of community-partnered school behavioral health programs. A community-partnered school behavioral health program is defined as behavioral health services provided to students by community behavioral health professionals in partnership with schools and families to supplement the services and supports provided by schools.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) would benefit from the development of a system to collect data on the effectiveness of community-partnered school behavioral health programs. MCPS currently partners with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Linkages to Learning and Wellness Center Programs; Identity, Inc.; the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County; and Family Services, Inc., to name a few, to provide behavioral health services to MCPS students. A standardized reporting system of outcome measures would allow MCPS to assess the effectiveness of these partnerships and programs to inform future programmatic and budget decisions.

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