



# Montgomery County Board of Education

## 2021 Annual Legislative Priorities

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports —

### Learning

- Fully funding the financial adjustments necessary due to the Coronavirus, including the **Maintenance of Effort formula**
- Fully funding any legislatively mandated initiatives, including the **Kirwan Commission** recommendations
- A robust and innovative **statewide school construction** and renovation funding plan
- Locally forward-funded projects remaining eligible for state funding – even if complete
- Changing the state funding process from a project by project allocation to a block grant allocation
- Establishing incentives for **green and energy-efficient** school construction.

### Respect

- Preserving **local autonomy** over education
- Decision making authority at the **local level-** including school calendars, curriculum, testing, and procurement issues
- Ensuring support for employee relationships and ensuring **fair and equitable treatment of all employees**
- Strategies that improve MCPS' environmental impact
- Supporting student transportation decisions being made at the local level
- Issues of **educational judgment** being determined at the local level

### Relationships

- Supporting the **physical, social, and psychological well-being** for all students
- Creating and funding a comprehensive suicide awareness, prevention, intervention, and postvention model
- Providing additional funding to **expand training of staff members** for students showing signs and symptoms of mental health illness and concerns
- Continued promotion of an **atmosphere of respect and nondiscrimination** for all students and staff
- Working **together with communities and families** to include family and community stakeholder voices in policy decisions
- Supporting and partnering with our **parent-teacher associations**

### Excellence

- Preparing all students to be **college, career and community ready**
- Maintaining the **authority of local boards of education** to determine educational policy, curriculum, additional graduation requirements, and administration
- Creating a **safe and secure environment** for all students – including innovative strategies to ensure a safe and secure learning and working environment for students and staff
- Investing in **early childhood-** including universal pre-K, fostering student readiness, and ensuring affordable child care

### Equity

- Providing **equitable opportunities and ensuring equitable access** for all students
- Increased state funding for **specialized programs-** including Career and Technology Education (CTE) Programs
- Ensuring that any mandated accountability system is implementable and focused on **rigor for all**, eliminating disparity based on race and economic circumstances
- Expanding the Maryland Meals for Achievement Program as an entitlement
- Efforts to increase federal funding for the Summer Food Service Program