

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

March 28, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: National Autism Awareness Month—April 2011

WHEREAS, April has been designated National Autism Awareness Month by the Autism Society of America; and

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorders are a group of developmental disabilities that contribute to lifelong social, communication, and behavioral challenges; and

WHEREAS, Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the world; and

WHEREAS, Autism recognizes no cultural, ethnic, or socioeconomic boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Each student with autism has a complex and distinct profile; and

WHEREAS, The goal of National Autism Awareness Month is to provide an opportunity for all concerned parties to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community; and

WHEREAS, Every student with autism is a unique learner and Montgomery County Public Schools reaffirms its commitment to tailor instruction to meet the learning needs of each student; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools has experienced a 51 percent average annual increase of students with autism over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools is currently responsible for the education of approximately 1,642 students with autism; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools will provide all students with autism the respect, encouragement, and opportunities they need to build the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be successful, contributing members of adult society; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools recognizes that strong and collaborative efforts among families, schools, and community organizations are the foundations upon which success for students with autism are built; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education continues to pledge its support to the energy and effort of staff, family, and community members who seek to ensure learning and success for our students with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

JDW:ser