



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

November 5, 2019



Mr. Jeremy Singer, President
The College Board National Office
250 Vesey Street
New York, New York 10281

On behalf of the students of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), we are writing to request clarification on the intent of the College Board to administer Advanced Placement (AP) exams on May 13, 2021, which coincides with the Muslim holiday Eid al-Fitr.

During the Montgomery County Board of Education Business Meeting on October 28, 2019, more than a dozen community members attended to speak to the importance of Muslim students being able to observe Eid al-Fitr without negative consequences to their ability to demonstrate academic progress in a particular course content, in this case English Language Composition, Microeconomics, and Music Theory. While MCPS excuses absences for students observing Eid al-Fitr, as defined in the online [MCPS Guidelines for Respecting Religious Diversity](#), Muslim students would experience an unintended consequence by observing their religious holiday on a day designated for AP exam administration.

MCPS is committed to ensuring students have equitable access to opportunities, regardless of their background. We request that you strongly consider excluding May 13, 2021, as an AP administration date to ensure all students have the equal opportunity to sit for the exam.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shebra L. Evans".

Shebra L. Evans
President, Montgomery County Board of Education

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jack R. Smith".

Jack R. Smith Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

SLE:JRS:hrs

Members of the Montgomery County Council
Members of the Montgomery County Board of Education
Dr. Monifa B. McKnight, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Maria V. Navarro, Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Kimberly A. Statham, Chief of School Support and Improvement
Dr. Andrew M. Zuckerman, Chief Operating Officer
Dr. Henry R. Johnson, Chief of Staff, MCPS
Ms. Lori-Christina Webb, Chief of Staff, Montgomery County Board of Education
Mr. David Coleman, Chief Executive Officer, College Board
Mr. Trevor Packer, Senior Vice President of AP and Instruction, College Board