



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



Bill: House Bill 476  
Title: State Board of Education - Financial Literacy Curriculum - Graduation Requirement  
Committee: Ways and Means  
Date: February 18, 2016  
Position: **OPPOSE**  
Contact: Michael Durso, President, Montgomery County Board of Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes House Bill 476.

House Bill 476 requires the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content for a semester course in financial literacy. The bill also requires county boards of education to implement the financial literacy curriculum content developed by the state board in every high school in the county and requires students to complete a course in financial literacy in order to graduate from high school.

Currently, the financial literacy standards developed by the Maryland State Department of Education are taught and assessed in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) in middle school social studies classes and Grade 10 government classes. In addition, financial literacy is addressed in middle school Family and Consumer Sciences classes and in high school College/Career Research Development classes. Furthermore, MCPS is partnering with Junior Achievement to enhance our financial literacy program through the implementation of a Financial Park which will be located at Thomas Edison High School for Technology.

House Bill 476 places an undue burden on students by limiting their Advanced Placement and elective choices by adding another graduation requirement. Furthermore, the goals of financial literacy are already met by integration into existing courses. This bill places an undue burden on local districts by requiring all students to complete a financial literacy course in order to graduate from high school. Time within the current high school structure and with the existing graduation requirements makes it difficult for some students to complete required coursework within four years.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Education, thank you for your consideration and we urge an unfavorable report.