



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



Bill: House Bill 86  
Title: Special Education-Translations of Individualized Education Programs or Individualized Family Service Plans  
Committee: Ways and Means  
Date: February 4, 2016  
Position: **SUPPORT**  
Contact: Michael Durso, President, Montgomery County Board of Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports House Bill 86.

This bill would grant parents of a child with a disability the authority to request the translation of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Current special education law, policies, and practices do not require Local Education Agencies to translate these documents.

Currently, the Language Assistance Services Unit of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) provides interpreters for IEP meetings and eligibility assessments for special education. With more than 125 languages represented in MCPS as a whole, the cost to translate IEPs could be significant.

That being said, irregardless of potential costs, it is critical that all parents have the opportunity to be provided with any and all essential information about their students, especially those parents who speak a language other than English. Doing so will allow them to assist in the education of their children as well as to effectively advocate for their needs. Providing a translated document, if requested, would serve those interests as well as potentially enhance parental engagement, strengthen the family/school partnership, and support the development of more trusting relationships.

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