



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



**Bill:** Senate Bill 65  
**Title:** Health and Safety - Sugar-Free Schools Act  
**Committee:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
**Date:** January 20, 2016  
**Position:** **OPPOSE**  
**Contact:** Michael Durso, President, Montgomery County Board of Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes Senate Bill 65.

This bill directs county Boards to convene a work group focused on reducing sugar intake in school meals. The work group is to study the best practices of other jurisdictions, review the best practices, and make recommendations to the local Board of Education based on the results of the best practice work group discussion and public testimony.

Currently, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has formed a wellness committee that reviews and develops best practices related to nutrition and physical education.

All foods and beverages available to students in MCPS meet and/or exceed U.S. Department of Agriculture and Maryland State Department of Education regulations. Meals are planned and nutritionally analyzed and served according to guidelines. A la carte items have prescribed limitations regarding fat, saturated fat, calories, trans fats, whole grains, and sugar. As a rule, MCPS does not add sugar to foods. Students do not have access to sugar packets. The only form of "sugar" available to students is in the form of maple syrup offered with appropriate menu items at breakfast and lunch. Flavored nonfat milks as well as yogurt are available and do contain added sugars. MCPS has worked with the dairy to reduce the amount of sugar as much as possible and still retain an acceptable product.

Decisions to convene work groups and make these policy decisions should be left to the authority of local boards of education.

For these reasons, we oppose this bill and ask for an unfavorable report.