

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

January 7, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: Social Studies Pilot Courses (12-03-20-01-A, -B)

During the *Approval of Pilot Courses* discussion, Dr. Docca requested the following:

Question A

Please reexamine the wording of the LGBTQ+ course offering to make certain that it is available to all students.

Response

The following language will be added to the course description. The course description will read as follows: “The course is designed for all students interested in learning more about the LGBTQ+ community and its history, including those who do and who do not identify as LGBTQ+.”

Question B

Please make certain that the Blair High School course offerings are available to all students that wish to attend. Also, examine how these offerings can be incorporated into the system’s history curriculum.

Response

Following successful completion of the pilot process, *Political Psychology and Behavior*, currently taught at Montgomery Blair High School, may be offered at any high school with sufficient staffing and student interest for the 2022–2023 school year. Opportunities for students to enroll for virtual participation in courses held at high schools other than their own may be developed following the completion of the pilot process in which course syllabus, content, and resources are in development.

All of the social studies pilot courses are elective courses intended to extend and deepen student learning of content and concepts found in core social studies courses. The three core social studies high school courses, *United States History*; *National, State, and Local Government*; and *Modern World History* are survey courses intended to encompass broad themes and content as a foundation for further learning.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Niki T. Hazel, associate superintendent of curriculum and instructional programs, Office of Teaching, Learning, and Schools, via e-mail.

JRS:JSW:NTH:bh

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Dr. Lewis

Ms. Webb