



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential*

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

**BILL:** SB0542 (Cross filed with HB0516)  
**TITLE:** Public School Students - Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness Act)  
**DATE:** 3/3/2020  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS  
**COMMITTEE:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
**CONTACT:** Danielle M. Susskind, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs  
[Danielle\\_M\\_Susskind@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Danielle_M_Susskind@mcpsmd.org)

The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **supports** SB0542 **with amendments**.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) concurs with the intent of this bill, to increase physical activity time for all students.

Currently, MCPS meets or exceeds weekly elementary school recess minutes, providing 30-40 minutes daily. This exceeds the request of Senate Bill 0542. MCPS provides 45-60 minutes of physical education per week through a scheduled elementary physical education classes. The current state of local school wellness councils allows local schools to select a goal area which may include nutrition education, food services, and/or physical activity and does not require that the local school wellness councils focus solely on moderate-to-vigorous physical activities.

MCPS respectfully request the following amendments:

- Remove middle school students (they do not have recess in middle school in MCPS).
- Modify the number of minutes for physical education from 90 minutes per week to 60 minutes per week.
- Amend the language about a statewide advisory council to align with the existing MSDE/State committee
- Require the the triennial assessment to be an every other year reporting, rather than annual reporting.
- Align the need for baseline student data with the current FERPA and HIPPA laws.
- Include an exception for facilities that host students receiving alternative methods of education from the requirement for every school to have a gymnasium.

For these reasons, the Board **supports** this legislation **with amendments** and urges a favorable report.