BILL: SB0894 (Cross filed with HB1195)
TITLE: County Boards of Education - Computer Science Courses
DATE: 3/3/2020
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
CONTACT: Danielle M. Susskind, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs
                 Danielle_M_Susskind @mcpsmd.org

The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **supports** SB0894.

This bill would require county boards, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, to submit a report on or before April 30 each year to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly on computer science courses offered in public school in the county in the prior school year including certain information regarding the students enrolled in the courses and the instructor demographics.

This Bill aligns with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) practices to promote computer science curriculum across all grade levels and to offer standards based and Advanced Placement (AP) computer science offerings at every high school. It aligns with the district's focus to increase enrollment for students who are underrepresented in the field of computer science. This bill also supports computer science curriculum for all grade levels and offers more opportunity and access to students in Maryland.

MCPS currently offers computer science courses (at least one) in all comprehensive high schools. MCPS also currently offers AP level computer science in twenty-four of the comprehensive high schools. MCPS offers a Career Technology Education Computer Science Program of Study in all high schools, allowing students to complete two AP computer science courses and move into advanced computer science or dual enrollment options. Additionally, MCPS currently offers coding and computer science as part of the middle school electives and STEM courses. In the 2019-2020 school year, eighth grade students began taking the Foundations of Computer Science course for Technology Education credit at the middle school.

MCPS piloted computer science in several elementary schools in the 2018-2019 school year and expanded implementation in all elementary grades in the 2019-2020 school year. All MCPS computer science curriculum is aligned to Maryland's K-12 Computer Science Standards.

MCPS will comply with the bill's data report requirements to the extent that no student or employee rights to privacy are violated in conforming to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Montgomery County Board of Education Nondiscrimination, Equity, and Cultural Proficiency policy.

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