



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: SB0762
TITLE: Education - High School Graduation Requirements - Applications for Student Financial Aid
DATE: 3/10/2020
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **supports** SB0762 **with an amendment**.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) recognizes that financial hardship has been identified as the most significant reason why some students choose to not attend college. To this end, MCPS supports the intent of this legislation.

This bill would also require school staff to monitor completion data and provide support for parents and students to complete the FAFSA or MSFAA. MCPS is currently collecting information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion as part of the Maryland State Department of Education FAFSA completion initiative. This bill will support MCPS and other local school systems with ensuring every student has completed the FAFSA or MSFAA.

However, making this a graduation requirement may disadvantage students who are concerned about completing federal or state forms. To this end, MCPS respectfully requests an amendment to pass this as authorizing legislation to recommend all school systems have a process in place for encouraging and supporting students to complete the FAFSA or MSFAA, but remove the provision that it is a graduation requirement.

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