



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: HB1421
TITLE: Education - Advanced Courses - Automatic Enrollment
DATE: 3/4/2020
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **opposes** HB1421.

This bill includes universal screenings to identify Gifted and Talented students for automatic enrollment in advanced courses. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) currently uses/implements universal screening to centrally recommend students for advanced courses and programming. One of the multiple measures is referenced in HB1421 proposal. Multiple measures, which include, classroom, district, and external assessments should be used to assess advanced courses and programming.

Currently, MCPS centrally identifies students who exceed grade level standards in the content area of Humanities and Mathematics. Lists of centrally identified students are generated for schools to enroll students in advanced courses. HB 1421 suggests automatic enrollment. Here are the number of students centrally identified for advanced courses and programming:

- Grades 4 - 5: Elementary Enriched Literacy SY 19-20 identified 3,742 students through this process.
- Grades 6 - 8: Middle Humanities SY 19-20 identified 3,368 students through this process.
- Grades 6 - 8: Middle Mathematics SY 19-20 identified 3,420 students through this process.

MCPS opposes this bill because it is not effective to use only one mechanism to identify a student. MCPS believes we must use multiple measures to determine students for course enrollment and to be labeled as gifted. Using only one metric, a state measure, would leave out other students that may be gifted and talented in other areas and in other ways. MCPS agrees that one of those metrics should be the state assessment scores for placement in advanced coursework, but also believes it is imperative to include multiple measures.

For these reasons, the Board **opposes** this legislation and urges an unfavorable report.