



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: HB0846
TITLE: Public Schools - Reporting of Assaults, Crimes of Violence, and Felonies (Report Act of 2020)
DATE: 3/4/2020
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **supports** HB0846 **with amendments**.

All Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) administratively report serious incidents to central office. MCPS currently is required to report certain crimes to law enforcement via the terms of the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding (SRO MOU). Not all of the crimes in this bill are included in the MOU. The data on police/administrative reports is to be filed with Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

It is unclear under the definition section of 3-201 if an “assault” means the crimes of assault, battery, and assault and battery. If this is the case, then all local school systems will have to technically report to the police all student unwanted pushing, shoving, touching, and scrimmages. This also could result in increased arrests of students for matters that are normally administratively addressed by school administrators without police involvement thus impacting the “School to Prison Pipeline.” In the case of a second degree assault where a subject commits an “assault” on school property, MCPS respectfully requests an amendment to indicate school administrators will report any incidents where a physical attack occurs on another that requires medical attention outside of the school health room to the police so a report can be initiated. This is consistent with the SRO MOU.

Furthermore, MCPS respectfully requests an amendment to ensure that this bill requires the reporting of first degree assault where a person may not intentionally cause or attempt to cause serious physical injury to another as opposed to second degree assault that does not result in medical attention. In addition, an amendment should be included to clarify that the reporting of crimes of assault/violence and felonies are for those that occur at a public school during the academic day or at after school or extracurricular activities. The bill does not specify the required reporting times and school administrators would generally not know what happens at their schools after these hours.

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