



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential*

15 West Gude Drive ♦ Suite 100 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

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**BILL:** Senate Bill 218

**TITLE:** State Superintendent of Schools - Prolonged State of Emergency - Authority to Declare

**DATE:** February 4, 2026

**POSITION:** Support

**COMMITTEE:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**CONTACT:** Patricia Ursprung, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

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The Montgomery County Board of Education supports Senate Bill 218.

This bill authorizes the State Superintendent of Schools to declare a prolonged state of emergency for an event that prevents regular, in-person attendance at a public school for at least 14 consecutive school days. Currently, the authority to declare a state of emergency impacting schools rests with the governor.

The state superintendent is the state-wide authority on education matters. The Montgomery County Board of Education and Dr. Taylor, superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools, believe it is good practice to permit the state superintendent, who will likely have the most knowledge and information on a given situation and who is in frequent contact with school systems, to declare an emergency impacting the education system in the state. Currently, this power rests with the governor.

This bill may streamline the process for declaring an emergency impacting education and give the power to do so to the person in the best position to act. As a result, the Montgomery County Board of Education supports Senate Bill 218 and requests a **favorable** report.