



# 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 204

**TITLE:** Public Schools - Maryland Civic Excellence Program - Established

**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 204.

This bill establishes the Maryland Civic Excellence Program within the Maryland State Department of Education and authorizes school systems to participate in the program. The program is a way to recognize students and public schools that promote the civic readiness and civic engagement of students in public schools in Maryland.

On August 21, 2025, the Montgomery County Board of Education adopted a legislative platform that contains priority issues and ongoing concerns. One of the ongoing concerns is being able to develop students who are future ready. This means, students will be able to demonstrate proficiency in skills and knowledge they need to adapt, lead, and make meaningful contributions to their communities. Being knowledgeable about civic engagement falls into this goal. Importantly, the program is elective, so there is no infringement on local control or curricular mandate that may impact the Board's ability to support the legislation.

As a result, and based on the Board's adopted platform, the Montgomery County Board of Education supports Senate Bill 204 and requests a **favorable** report.