



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential*

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: SB0078  
TITLE: Public Schools - Student Discipline Regulations - Remedial Measures  
DATE: 1/22/2020  
POSITION: OPPOSE  
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environment Affairs  
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **Opposes** SB0078.

For the 2019-2020 school year, 125 schools at all three levels are implementing formal restorative practices. This bill, if enacted, calls for each school board to adopt disciplinary regulations that provide for educational and behavior interventions, restorative approaches, counseling, and student and parenting conferencing.

The 2019-2020 Student Code of Conduct in Montgomery County Public Schools is designed to promote fairness and equity through clear, appropriate, and consistent expectations for positive behavior and consequences in addressing student misbehavior. The Code of Conduct reflects MCPS's belief that discipline is a developmental process, and effective discipline strategies should meet students' varied behavioral and development needs with tiered responses and interventions. It incorporates restorative practices which afford students opportunities to learn from their mistakes, correct any harm that results from their behavior, and restore relationships that are disrupted by their conduct. Therefore, it appears that the MCPS Code of Conduct already achieves the aspirations of this bill.

MCPS and the Board oppose this bill based on local autonomy. Furthermore, the bill may have implications with IDEA if the components are further defined.

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