



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: SB0986 (Cross filed with HB1487)
TITLE: Public Schools – Agricultural Education and Grant Programs
DATE: 3/3/2020
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
CONTACT: Danielle M. Susskind, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs
[Danielle M Susskind @mcpsmd.org](mailto:Danielle.M.Susskind@mcpsmd.org)

The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **opposes** SB0986.

Senate Bill 0986 requires each county board of education to implement a certain agriculture science curriculum and an agricultural education program that prepares students for certain careers and informed choices in a certain manner. SB0986 would also establish the Maryland Agricultural Education Grant Program, requiring the Governor to include an appropriation of \$785,000 to the Program for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter.

While the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) system supports agricultural programs and agricultural science, the method and curriculum for this subject is the purview of the local board of education. MCPS always welcomes any materials that advocates would like to share around this important topic, but do not support the state mandating the curriculum or the implementation of the program. Local school boards are best positioned to make determinations about curricula and academic programming.

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