



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: HB1250
TITLE: Education – Length of the School Year – Declared State of Emergency
(Kathryn Marie Carmello’s Law)
DATE: 2/28/2020
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: Danielle M. Susskind, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs
Danielle_M_Susskind@mcpsmd.org

The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **supports** HB1250.

This bill would provide local jurisdictions more flexibility in setting the instructional school year calendar and would prevent school systems from having to extend the year unusually late into the summer months, such as June. Allowing local jurisdictions to reduce the required number of school days due to a declared state of emergency provides flexibility that is much needed and benefits the local jurisdictions in meeting their educational and operational objectives.

In the event of a declared state of emergency, typically school is out for a number of days due to the severe conditions. Each year, Montgomery County Public Schools must identify sometimes multiple days to extend school if emergency conditions create the need for multiple closures. Extending the school year deep into June does not always meet educational objectives as major testing, for example, takes place earlier in the school year.

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