



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential*

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

**BILL:** HB1536  
**TITLE:** Primary and Secondary Education – Title IX – Policies and Procedures  
(Hear Our Voices Act of 2020)  
**DATE:** 3/4/2020  
**POSITION:** OPPOSE  
**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means  
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **opposes** HB1536.

This bill is not necessary because the expectations it sets forth exist elsewhere in Maryland law.

- Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, §7-424, §7-424.1 sets forth the requirements for reporting and investigating bullying, harassment and intimidation including informing the school community of the process of making such reports. §7-424 specifically includes conduct that is sexual in nature in the definition section of bullying, harassment and intimidation.
- §7-424.1 sets forth the criteria for the Model Policy on bullying, harassment and intimidation including requirements for LEAs to collect specific information from each report and investigation and report annually to the State. MSDE publishes a statewide report on bullying, harassment and intimidation data from these reports.

Additionally, Title IX requires notification of the person who serves as the Title IX coordinator. The Student Welfare and Compliance Unit serves that role for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and, in compliance with federal law, broad notice is given to students and families through the MCPS website, the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook and other documents and training provided throughout the district .

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