



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: SB0830 (Cross filed with HB1148)
TITLE: Secretary of Health – School–Based Health Centers – Guidelines and Administration of Grants
DATE: March 11, 2021
POSITION: Support
COMMITTEE: Finance
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **supports** SB0830.

Senate Bill 0830 would require that the Maryland Secretary of Health consult with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and other stakeholders to develop guidelines to support the expansion of school-based health centers (SBHC). In addition, SB0830 would require the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and MSDE to develop a plan to transfer the administration of SBHC grants from MSDE to MDH and the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health. Finally, SB0830 would require that the Governor enact the transfer of administration of SBHC grants from MSDE to MDH.

SB0830 does not appear to affect the function of SBHCs as they stand. SB0830 defines “supporting the expansion of SBHCs” as the Maryland Council on Advancement of School-based Health Centers as engaging in the following activities:

- Supporting local efforts to establish or expand SBHC capacity,
- Integrating SBHCs into existing or emerging patient-centered models of care,
- Promoting the inclusion of SBHCs in networks of managed care organizations and health insurance carriers,
- Advancing state and local public health goals,
- Promoting inclusion of SBHCs in networks of school health services to provide a range of services in school settings,
- Supporting state and local initiatives to promote student success,
- Reviewing and revising best practices, and
- Supporting the long-term sustainability of SBHCs.

SBHCs provide a valuable service to students and their families and, in some communities, serve as the primary healthcare provider for students. Student health and wellness is important for school success. SB0830 would have an impact on Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) in that expanded SBHC services would allow for more MCPS students to access basic and preventative medicine and healthcare.

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