



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: HB1113
TITLE: Primary and Secondary Education - Education Savings Account Program - Established
DATE: 3/11/2021
POSITION: Oppose
COMMITTEE: Appropriations
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **opposes** HB1113.

This bill establishes an Education Savings Account Program in the state that would be used to provide grants to parents/guardians of a student for the purpose of paying for tuition, fees, textbooks, private tutoring, curriculum materials, etc. to attend a non-public school.

MCPS does not support the removal of funds from public education. The bill says that for students from families whose income is less than or equal to 500 percent of the federal poverty level, that 25 percent of the per pupil amount of state and local education funds would be deposited into the student's account and families whose income is greater than 500 percent will have 18.75 percent of the per pupil amount deposited into the student's account.

It also requires the county to reimburse the state for the local amount provided for these Education Savings Accounts. With finite resources available for public school education, it is likely that aid for public schools would be reduced by the amount that the state would put towards this Education Savings Account Program to fund the costs of students to attend non-public schools.

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