



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: HB0630
TITLE: Primary and Secondary Education – School District Energy Use – Policy and Study
DATE: 3/25/2021
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **supports** HB0630.

HB 630 includes three significant changes to current practice:

- The bill expands and funds the Maryland Net Zero Energy School Initiative Grant Program. This could be beneficial to MCPS. The previous program only provided funding for 3 schools, one in Howard County and two in Baltimore City.
- MCPS has an Energy Policy (Policy ECA, Energy Conservation), which we are planning to review and update over the next year. HB 630 requires targets to be established that increase renewable energy and decrease greenhouse gas emissions; current policy only requires that general conservation goals and objectives be set.
- MCPS tracks renewable energy purchased and generated, but has not reported this information to external agencies.

Regarding the remainder of HB 630, MCPS already has systems and/or other county mandates in place that effectively already comply with the content:

- During normal school operation, MCPS posts quarterly individual school energy use on the Division of Sustainability and Compliance website.
- MCPS reports annually to the County total renewable energy credits purchased per year.
- MCPS also calculates the EUI (Energy Use Index) (energy use/square foot), both as a district average as well as for each individual school. This data for individual schools goes back to 2014, and the system-wide data goes back to 1978.
- MCPS already participates in a County benchmarking program for school buildings.
- MCPS has published a Sustainability Plan, generally on a two year schedule.

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