



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: SB0664
TITLE: Education - High School Graduation Requirements - Applications for Student Financial Aid
DATE: 4/1/2021
POSITION: Support with Amendments
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
CROSSOVER: Appropriations
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **supports** SB0664 **with amendments**.

Financial hardship has been identified as the most significant reason why some students choose to not attend college. MCPS is currently collecting information on FAFSA completion as part of the Maryland State Department of Education FAFSA completion initiative. This bill will support us with ensuring every student has completed the FAFSA or MSFAA. This bill would require school staff to monitor completion data and provide support for parents and students to complete the FAFSA or MSFAA. We support this bill and recognize the need for increasing the FAFSA/MSFAA completion rates. However, the timeline and lack of incentives is worrisome.

MCPS respectfully requests an amendment to this language that incentivizes this initiative with supports in schools to operationalize the work by providing resources to help reach the goal of 100%. It would be very difficult to meet the goal of 100% compliance with no supports and time for transition. MCPS also respectfully requests this be passed as authorizing legislation, but does not REQUIRE participation for graduation. MCPS remains concerned for students for whom college is not their next step (CTE programs, apprenticeships, military, etc.) and for the students who are not willing to indicate their citizenship status to complete these forms.

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