



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: SB0497 (Cross filed with HB0071)
TITLE: Juvenile Services Education Board and Program - Establishment, Powers, and Duties
DATE: 4/1/2021
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
CROSSOVER: Judiciary
CONTACT: Danielle M. Susskind, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs
[Danielle M Susskind @mcpsmd.org](mailto:Danielle_M_Susskind@mcpsmd.org)

The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **supports** SB0497.

Senate Bill 497 proposes to establish a Board of Education for the Juvenile Services Education System. Currently, the Juvenile Services Education System is managed by the Maryland State Department of Education.

The creation of a Board of Education would add needed oversight to the educational system for students housed in Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) facilities, as our experience has been that those facilities currently have difficulty matching the coursework and rigor of our local schools, putting students at an academic disadvantage as they enter and exit DJS facilities and their local Montgomery County Public Schools.

The bill allows for the Board of Education to contract with a county board to assume operational control of any facility administered by the Board, which would enable MCPS to continue and expand their current footprint in the Noyes facility.

The transfer of records expectations and re-enrollment of students expectations are best practices, are currently in place in MCPS, and would further support the work our court liaison and pupil personnel workers do to assist students as they enter and exit short and long-term DJS facilities.

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