



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential*

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: HB0214  
TITLE: Juveniles - Reportable Offenses  
DATE: 2/2/2022  
POSITION: Support  
COMMITTEE: Judiciary  
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **Supports** HB0214

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) unequivocally endorses and supports House Bill 13, as it will allow for a safe, secure, and supportive learning environment, not only for students who have been under the charge of the Department of Juvenile Services regarding an arrest for a reportable or an offense related to a student's membership in a criminal gang, but it will also enhance the safety of other students and staff.

The Department of Juvenile Services being required to make such notifications to local school superintendents and school principals will allow for the charged or gang involved students to continue to receive educational and supportive services that meets their individual needs and will also allow for this to be done in a safe, secure, and supportive environment for these students and other students attending the same public school. Prior to this bill, local school superintendents and school principals were at a disadvantage in not having this knowledge so they could provide appropriate educational and support services to the charged students in a safe, secure, and supportive learning environment for all students and staff. Furthermore, House Bill will allow principals to develop a school-based safety plan for gang involved students who were under the charge of the Department of Juvenile Services as well as other students and staff especially when rival gang members attend the same school. In addition, a safety plan could be constructed as needed for the safety of all parties in the school based on the seriousness of the reportable offense that the student was under the charge of the Department of Juvenile Services.

In closing, House Bill 214, like the Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018, will allow for enhanced school safety for public schools across the State of Maryland.

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