



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: HB1256
TITLE: Education - Discriminatory Concepts in Instruction - Prohibition
(Ending Discrimination in Public Education Act of 2022)
DATE: 03/10/2022
POSITION: Oppose
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **opposes** HB1256

This bill prohibits the teaching of specific concepts deemed discriminatory in any public or non-public school. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) fully supports the belief that instructional materials should not discriminate on the basis of sex or race, but provide equal opportunity and representation for all students. MCPS does not promote the blaming or shaming of students or families for the actions of others. Instead, it encourages all students to consider the past, examine their present, and work to be allies with one another to ensure a future free from the racist and sexist practices, attitudes, and systems of the past.

MCPS is intentional in including the perspectives and voices of diverse populations, including racial, ethnic, religious, LGBTQ+, gender identity, language, and disability across all content areas. However, the bill as written poses the potential for interpretations that would discourage the teaching of past and present racist and sexist attitudes, practices, and systems. Learning about past and present discrimination may make some uncomfortable, but that is not grounds for prohibition. Furthermore, all MCPS curriculum content is guided by the content standards approved by the State Board of Education. It is in the purview of the local education agencies to determine how the standards are to be taught in ways appropriate to the needs and context of their own communities.

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