



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: HB1287
TITLE: Public Schools - Curricula and Instructional Materials - Required List of Information (Curriculum Transparency 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** HB1287

This bill requires each public school to post a list of all instructional materials for all courses offered at that school on their website. Materials include books, treatise, articles, recording, software, website or paper. Information to be provided includes title, author and publisher. The bill further requires that on each school's website there is a form for submitting complaints about materials and contact information for individuals who can address questions about materials. Additionally, the bill requires school systems to annually provide information about the number of complaints submitted and state funding that will be impacted by school systems not in compliance.

Public schools offer a large number of courses across all grade levels. High schools may offer 70 or more courses each semester. Some curriculum in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is purchased and is proprietary. This limits the ability of MCPS to post instructional materials or share links to resources in many cases.

The intent of the bill is to provide public inspection of lesson plans and materials. MCPS currently has processes in place for the review and approval of curriculum and curriculum materials as well as submitting complaints about texts and textbooks. Curriculum materials are best understood within the context of an instructional lesson rather than as isolated lists. Teachers are the best resource for parents to understand what students are learning so that context can be explained. Furthermore, all curriculum is aligned to content standards approved by the State Board of Education. Teachers adhere to MCPS curriculum frameworks and/or scope and sequence documents. These are already publicly available on the MCPS Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs website.

This bill places an undue burden on teachers to compile a list of all Instructional Materials as defined in the bill and would take numerous hours to complete. Many resources are identified during the course of the school year and not a full year in advance.

- Instructional materials may exist in a variety of formats including digital and print, making it difficult to post on a website effectively.
- Teachers utilize a variety of instructional materials, and these materials may differ from teacher to teacher within the same course. These materials when prepared for public posting could generate hundreds of pages of materials for each course.

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