



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

April 1, 2025

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 1169 (MC 6-25), *Howard County and Montgomery County – Board of Education – Mandatory School Holidays*

Support

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1169 (MC 6-25), *Howard County and Montgomery County – Board of Education – Mandatory School Holidays*. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, the bill would require the closure of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to student attendance on Diwali, Eid Al-Adha, Eid Al-Fitr; Lunar New Year, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Juneteenth.

The bill is consistent with the MCPS calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. Six of the listed days are non-instructional days on which neither teachers nor students attend school. The seventh day (Eid al Fitr) is currently a professional development day on which teachers attend school, but students do not. The school system's current practice reflects Montgomery County's long history of honoring diverse cultural and religious communities, while also respecting all the other factors that must be considered by the Montgomery County Board of Education when establishing the school calendar each year.

I believe that it is appropriate to codify current MCPS practice to ensure consistency in future school years and respectfully requests that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee give this bill a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Energy, and the Environment Committee