



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

15 West Gude Drive ♦ Suite 100 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: Senate Bill 8

TITLE: Education – Maryland Civic Excellence Program – Established

DATE: March 19, 2025

POSITION: Support

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

CONTACT: Patricia Ursprung, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports Senate Bill 8.

This bill establishes the Maryland Civic Excellence Program as a voluntary program in which local school systems may participate to recognize students and public schools that promote the civic readiness and civic engagement of students in public schools in the State. It further establishes minimum criteria for the award of a Seal of Civic Excellence and designation as a Center of Civic Excellence and requires participating local school systems to submit an annual report to the Department of Education beginning July 1, 2027.

On September 26, 2024, the Montgomery County Board of Education adopted a legislative platform that contains priority issues and ongoing interests. One of the ongoing interests is ensuring students are college, career, and community ready. Based on this platform position, the Montgomery County Board of Education supports SB 8, which aims to increase students' civic readiness through education and hands-on learning experiences.

Senate Bill 8 expands learning opportunities to students at schools that choose to participate in the program. Importantly, the program is voluntary for schools and students. Given the bill's goal of increasing students' civic readiness and knowledge, the Montgomery County Board of Education **supports Senate Bill 8.**