



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

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

BILL: House Bill 1127

TITLE: Public Schools - Water Safety and Swimming - Instructional Content, Plan, and Reporting

DATE: March 3, 2025

POSITION: Oppose

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

CONTACT: Patricia Ursprung, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes House Bill 1127.

This bill requires county boards of education to update the health and physical education curriculum to include instructional content on water safety and swimming. To implement this curriculum, boards of education must develop a plan to ensure that public school students have access to swimming pools to complete the course work.

On September 26, 2024, the Montgomery County Board of Education adopted a legislative platform that contains priority issues and ongoing concerns. One of the ongoing concerns is preserving local autonomy. Based on this platform position, the Montgomery County Board of Education opposes legislation that would infringe on local control and impose unfunded mandates. Bills that fall into this category require specific school system action and may impact areas such as school calendars, school start times, curriculum, testing, procurement, and other operational decision-making. Some of these bills have a known fiscal impact, other times the fiscal impact is unintended or unintentional.

House Bill 1127 infringes on local control as it would impose a curricular mandate and create an unfunded mandate for the school system. This proposed legislation requires schools to develop a curriculum, but the required curriculum can only be implemented if students have access to a swimming pool. Currently, only two schools operated by Montgomery County Public Schools have an on-site pool. This means Montgomery County Public Schools will incur additional costs implementing this legislation for the remaining 209 schools. Current estimates suggest the additional cost could be more than \$20 million annually. As a result of the curricular mandate that results in an unfunded liability for the school system, the Montgomery County Board of Education opposes House Bill 1127.