



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

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

BILL: SB 51

TITLE: Public Schools - Self-Contained Special Education Classrooms - Use of Video Recording Devices

DATE: February 4, 2026

POSITION: Oppose

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

CONTACT: Patricia Ursprung, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes Senate Bill 51.

This bill requires local education agencies (LEAs) to install at least one video recording device in each self-contained special education classroom by the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year.

On August 21, 2025, 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. 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. The platform also permits that Board to oppose bills that contain unfunded mandates, i.e. bills that would result in a fiscal impact on the school system with no identified funding source.

Senate Bill 51 contains an unfunded operational mandate. Purchasing and installing cameras in each of our self-contained special education classrooms would be an enormous task that would come at great cost. Further, the directive that each designated classroom have a camera removes local autonomy and the Board or administration's ability to determine what is best for Montgomery County Public Schools as a whole, and individual schools therein.

Because Senate Bill 51 is an unfunded mandate that infringes on local control, the Board opposes this bill pursuant to its adopted platform and requests an **unfavorable** report.