



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

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

BILL: House Bill 936

TITLE: Montgomery County Public Schools - Local Food Procurement MC 7-26

DATE: April 1, 2026

POSITION: Support

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

CONTACT: Patricia Ursprung, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) supports House Bill 936.

This bill requires Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to identify the current amount of food purchased and served by Division of Food and Nutritional Services from certified local farms and certified Chesapeake invasive species providers and then set goals to increase the use of foods that fall within those categories. Under the bill, MCPS will set the annual goals and develop a plan to meet the goals. The information must be published on the MCPS website.

This bill presents a measured approach to work toward the goal of increasing local food procurements and offerings over the next ten years, while giving MCPS maximum autonomy to determine what is possible without outsized operational impact. While operational changes will be required to properly track the food purchased through larger food distribution companies, as opposed to food we procure directly from local farms and farmers, it is expected that the impact will be manageable. Additionally, because MCPS is given the authority to determine the current baseline and set the annual goals, if any portion of reaching the determination is cost-prohibitive, the school system can identify that challenge and exclude that portion of the food procurement from the baseline calculation. It is the Board's understanding that the sponsor of this local bill does not desire for this to create a large financial burden for the Board.

Because the Montgomery County Board of Education supports the goal of the bill, and believes it can be accomplished in a cost-effective manner, it supports House Bill 936 and urges a **favorable** report.