



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

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

BILL: HB 189

TITLE: Public Middle, High, and Charter Schools - Start Time for Instruction

DATE: February 5, 2026

POSITION: Oppose

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

CONTACT: Patricia Ursprung, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes House Bill 189.

This bill requires Maryland public school systems, beginning in the 2028-2029 school year, to begin instruction not earlier than 8:00 a.m. for middle schools and 8:30 a.m. for high schools.

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.

House Bill 189 infringes on local control as it places restrictions and requirements on permissible school start times. As a result, the Montgomery County Board of Education opposes House Bill 189 and requests an **unfavorable** report.