



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

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

BILL: HB 525

TITLE: County Boards of Education - Student Electronic Communication Device Use Policy - Establishment (Maryland Phone-Free Schools Act)

DATE: February 18, 2026

POSITION: Oppose

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

CONTACT: Patricia Ursprung, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes House Bill 525.

This bill requires local education agencies (LEAs) to establish a policy restricting the use of personal electronic devices by students during the school day.

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 525 infringes on local control by requiring all LEAs to have the same policy on use of personal electronic devices during school hours. This directive removes the Board or administration's ability to determine what is best for Montgomery County Public Schools as a whole, and individual schools therein.

Because House Bill 525 infringes on local control, the Board opposes this bill pursuant to its adopted platform and urges an **unfavorable** report.