



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

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

BILL: House Bill 781

TITLE: Public Middle Schools – Instruction on the Consequences of a Conviction for Felony Murder

DATE: February 25, 2026

POSITION: Oppose

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

CONTACT: Patricia Ursprung, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes House Bill 781.

This bill requires the State Board of Education to develop curriculum resources for instruction on the consequences of a conviction for felony murder that would be incorporated by county boards of education into courses offered to public middle school students in the State.

On August 21, 2026, 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. The bills may have a fiscal impact, sometimes known, other times unintended.

House Bill 781 infringes on local control as it would impose a curricular mandate on the school system. This proposed legislation requires the development of instructional materials addressing the consequences of being convicted of a felony murder. While this is undeniably information that would be beneficial for children to know and understand, the Montgomery County Board of Education opposes curricular mandates as a matter of course. The power to determine the curricular offerings of the school system is of paramount importance with regard to the education of the children in our schools and must remain within the purview of local boards of education.

As a result of the curricular mandate, the Montgomery County Board of Education opposes House Bill 781 and requests an **unfavorable** report.