



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

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

BILL: House Bill 807

TITLE: Education - Teacher Preparation Programs - English Language Learner Teacher Competency Requirements

DATE: February 25, 2026

POSITION: Support with Amendment

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

CONTACT: Patricia Ursprung, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports House Bill 807 with a requested amendment.

This bill requires that teacher preparation programs include training in English language learner-related teacher competencies and, beginning in the 2028-2029 school year, teacher preparation programs would have to include a certain course in teaching English language learners.

On August 21, 2025, the Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) adopted a legislative platform that contains priority issues, areas for increased advocacy, and ongoing concerns. One of the Board's areas for increased advocacy during this legislative session concerns teacher preparation programs, specifically as it relates to multilingual learners and special education students.

Montgomery County is beautifully diverse. Our students speak many languages and come from various cultural backgrounds. Many school resources are available in English, Spanish, French, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Portuguese, and Amharic. While the Board of Education considers this a benefit to our student body and school community ad a while, sometimes it results in teachers being less prepared to educate certain populations of students. To better serve all students, the Montgomery County Board of Education believes that teacher preparation programs should include required coursework on teaching special education students and multi-lingual learners. Even if teachers do not specialize in these areas, basic knowledge will help them be more effective and transition smoothly into the classroom without needing the school system to invest in costly additional training.



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While the Board of Education supports House Bill 807, we suggest replacing all references to English language learners with multilingual learners. Multilingual learner is becoming the preferred, more inclusive term, and is therefore most appropriate for any approved legislation.

Because of the benefit House Bill 807 will have for all students and families in Montgomery County Public Schools, the Board of Education requests a **favorable** report, with the requested amendment.