



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential*

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

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**BILL:** House Bill 943

**TITLE:** State Board of Education - Financial Literacy - Graduation Requirement

**DATE:** February 25, 2026

**POSITION:** Oppose

**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means

**CONTACT:** Patricia Ursprung, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

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The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes House Bill 943.

This bill requires the State Board of Education to add financial literacy to the current graduation requirements. This would necessarily be accompanied by curricular changes or additional course development.

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 943 infringes on local control as it could increase required graduation credits and, as a result, would require adjustments to curricular offerings. While the Montgomery County Board of Education understands the benefit of learning financial literacy while in high school, it believes that the Maryland State Department of Education is in the best position to determine state-wide educational competencies that need to be demonstrated in order to earn a Maryland State diploma. This is done through establishing graduation credit requirements. Once graduation requirements are determined, local boards have the flexibility to determine what courses must be offered to comply with the state-wide standards. The Board's belief in this process is precisely why one of its priority issues is requiring the Department of Education to regularly review and update graduation requirements. Updates might be necessary, but the experts within the Department of Education should be responsible for making that determination. House Bill 1438, also being considered during the legislative session, looks to accomplish just that.



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Because this bill would circumvent the power of the Maryland State Department of Education and result in a curricular mandate on local education agencies, the Montgomery County Board of Education opposes House Bill 943 and requests an **unfavorable** report.