



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

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

BILL: House Bill 14

TITLE: County Boards of Education - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation - Information Collection and Reporting Requirements

DATE: January 29, 2026

POSITION: Support with Amendments

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

CONTACT: Patricia Ursprung, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports House Bill 14 with a recommended amendment.

This bill requires local education agencies (LEA) to collect and report on its website data concerning bullying incidents that occur in schools under the control of the LEA, disaggregated by motivating personal characteristic. Per the bill language, the data would have to be posted annually on the LEA's website by January 31.

The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) supports this bill and its intent to increase transparency regarding bullying incidents in schools. However, the Board recommends that the bill be amended to delay the proposed reporting deadline. Currently, LEAs must report substantiated bullying data to Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) by January 31. MSDE acknowledges and compiles the data into a state-wide report that is published sometime in the spring. The Board believes any reporting on an individual LEA's website should not occur until after MSDE has issued its annual report (recommendation is posting on the LEA's website no later than 30 days after the MSDE report is published). This ensures that the data reported by both agencies will be the same without possible discrepancies that will only serve to confuse the public, rather than make them better-informed.

This simple change, which represents a delay of only a couple months from what is proposed in the bill, will help improve transparency, which also ensuring accuracy. The Montgomery County Board of Education supports House Bill 14 with the proposed amendment.