



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

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

BILL: House Bill 352

TITLE: Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program - Personnel and Per Pupil Grants
- Eligible Uses

DATE: February 11, 2026

POSITION: Support

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

CONTACT: Patricia Ursprung, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) supports House Bill 352.

This bill allows school system to continue to utilize monies from the Concentration of Poverty Grant Program to provide fine arts instruction in community schools.

On August 21, 2025, the Montgomery County Board of Education adopted a legislative platform that contains priority issues and ongoing concerns. One of the Board's priority issues is achieving flexibility in connection with community schools funding. Montgomery County Public Schools receives funding for its 77 community schools through the Concentration of Poverty Grant, and utilizes a portion of that funding to provide fine arts programming in the schools. Ending this option in FY 27 will have a negative impact on the school system's budget, as funds will have to be reallocated to provide education in this area. Additionally, the Board supports having flexibility to utilize Concentration of Poverty Grant funds for academic pursuits and interventions currently prohibited in the law.

As a result, and based on the Board's adopted platform, the Montgomery County Board of Education supports House Bill 352 and urges a **favorable** report.