



# 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 836

**TITLE:** County Boards of Education – Post College and Career Readiness Pathways – Payment of Costs

**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 826.

This bill requires county boards of education to pay all costs associated with college preparatory programs consisting of Advanced Placement courses specified by the College Board, for all students, regardless of income or college and career readiness status.

On August 21, 2025, the Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) adopted a legislative platform that contains priority issues and ongoing concerns. One of the Board’s priority issues was to *curtail* costs associated with Blueprint-required funding of college preparatory programs.

Currently, the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future (Blueprint) requires school systems to cover the costs of Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams for all students who meet the College and Career Readiness (CCR) standard. In FY25, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) spent close to \$5 million on AP and IB exams. At that time, the per-exam fees were as follows: \$90 for the AP exam, \$138 for the AP Capstone exam, and \$123 for the IB exam. The cost of each exam increases annually.

Montgomery County is economically diverse. Our schools provide services to families that experience substantial financial need, those who are fully economically stable, and many that fall somewhere in the middle. The Board is committed to making sure all students have access to the educational opportunities contained within the Blueprint and understands that not all families need the same level of support to make access possible. As a result, and in order to maximize the funds that are allocated to us from our funding partners, the Board requested legislation that would permit local education agencies to utilize income eligibility guidelines to determine the level of financial support a family could receive in connection with participation in college preparatory programs.



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House Bill 836 is in direct conflict with this Board priority. Being able to utilize income eligibility standards would better allow the Board to utilize the limited funds available to support all students attending MCPS.

Because House Bill 836 removes any ability for the Board of Education to implement income eligibility categories as it relates to AP courses, and might expand the group of students who are eligible for access without cost (i.e. those who have met the CCR standard vs. those who have not), the Montgomery County Board of Education opposes this legislation and urges an **unfavorable** report.