



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

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

BILL: House Bill 1438

TITLE: State Board of Education - Public High School Graduation Requirements

DATE: March 12, 2026

POSITION: Support

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

CONTACT: Patricia Ursprung, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) supports House Bill 1438.

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to review graduation requirements at least once every five years and make any needed adjustments.

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 for the 2026 legislative session is ensuring that graduation credit requirements for students remain relevant to future careers and opportunities. We believe that House Bill 1438 is a reasonable step toward that goal.

The last time the graduation credit requirements were reviewed and updated was in 2018. At that time, the Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) directed MSDE to engage a task force to complete a credit review and recommend updates. In December 2020, nearly three years later, the task force presented their findings and recommendations to the State Board. This lengthy process is not conducive to keeping graduation requirements relevant to our changing economy and world.

House Bill 1438 prioritizes regular reviews of graduation requirements. Ideally, with more frequent reviews, each evaluation will be able to be accomplished in a shorter timeframe than what occurred in 2018. This will allow the State Board to respond more quickly to a changing world with changing workforce demands and opportunities, while maintaining continuity and consistency that is important for student learning.

Given how rapidly our world is changing, as well as feedback from students who continue to express concern that current graduation credit requirements feel outdated and disconnected from their needs, the Montgomery County Board of Education supports House Bill 1438, which ensures that graduation requirements are regularly reviewed so that students can be best prepared for their future. The Board urges a **favorable** report.