



Montgomery County Council of PTAs
12900 Middlebrook Road, 3rd Floor
Germantown, MD 20874

Montgomery County Council of PTAs Resolution on the FY 2016 Operating Budget Priorities

WHEREAS, it is the mission of MCCPTA to advocate for every child's potential, focusing on public education in Montgomery County, and MCCPTA representatives are part of the Operating Budget review group that will help develop the Superintendent's Recommend FY 2016 Operating Budget;

WHEREAS, MCCPTA supports educational programs that promote children's health, well-being, and educational success through strong parent, family, and community involvement and developing between educators and the community united efforts to secure for all children the highest advantages in physical, mental, and social education; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools is experiencing tremendous growth, at more than 2800 additional students per year; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Board of Education will be eliciting input during budget formulation, and will hear testimony on and consider the Superintendent's Recommended FY 2016 Operating Budget after its release in December 2014; and the Maryland General Assembly will debate and approve state funding for schools, including its allocation to Montgomery County, during its 90 day session starting in January 2015; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that education budget cuts undermine efforts to improve the quality of education, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that MCCPTA considers the following interests to be its highest priorities*:

1. Recognizing that student achievement correlates with teacher quality, and using professional development and training to prepare educators to engage and challenge students, effectively manage their classrooms and maximize the potential of every child; and
2. Ensuring that administrators and educators are prepared to offer academic intervention, remediation, enrichment, acceleration, and access to effectively teach children of all races, cultures, and ethnicities with multicultural sensitivity and content that is historically and culturally accurate; and
3. Supporting intentional efforts by MCPS to close the opportunity gap and the achievement gap often faced by minority students by offering opportunities to be successful with dedicated and specific personnel (at school level and MCPS administration), increased promotion of additional, relevant instructional resources and training in their use, necessary interventions, and parent outreach through appropriate MCPS staff. Recognizing that since smaller classes are particularly effective at raising achievement levels of disadvantaged students at all achievement levels, including gifted and talented students, the staffing of educators, administrators, and support staff should be prioritized based on students receiving free and reduced-price meals and total current enrollment; and

4. Supporting linguistically diverse learners by encouraging the recruitment, retention, and development of highly qualified educators and professional staff with special consideration given to professionals who have language skills that match those reflected in the current student population. Meeting the unique needs of English Language Learners (ELL) by having optimal and necessary means (bi-lingual personnel and translation services) for student assessment, instruction and counseling along with effective parent support; and
5. Providing the appropriate resources, accommodations, and technology for students receiving special education services, whether mainstreamed or in special programs; and
6. Effectively rolling out of the Common Core-based standards and curriculum with guidelines, resources, and oversight for implementing grading consistency and access to enriched and accelerated instruction for all schools; regular and clear communication to students and their families, and comprehensive staff and parent development and training at every school; and
7. Continuing the implementation of an up to date and fully supported system-wide technology plan that meets the needs of the new curriculum and educational standards, and as required by the implementation of statewide PARCC assessments, and using flexible technology to meet the needs of diverse learners; and
8. Ensuring there is a comprehensive plan to appropriately staff schools with MCPS security staff, School Resource Officers, and building services staff to provide safe, orderly, and drug-free schools through activities and programs that foster a safe learning environment in permanent and temporary structures supporting academic achievement; and
9. Recognizing that MCPS is experiencing tremendous enrollment growth each year, staffing needs must be matched at the school level to keep pace with this student growth; and

THAT MCCPTA authorizes its President and Operating Budget Committee Chair to represent the organization throughout the budget cycle in the way that, in their discretion, best advances the above objectives.

**Note: Priorities are not listed in order of importance*