



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



Bill: House Bill 1095
Title: Prekindergarten Programs - Notification of Eligibility by Local Departments of Social Services
Committee: Ways and Means
Date: March 7, 2016
Position: **SUPPORT**
Contact: Michael Durso, President, Montgomery County Board of Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports House Bill 1095.

House Bill 1095 would require certain local departments of social services and certain local health departments to provide certain parents or guardians notice that their children may be eligible for publicly funded prekindergarten programs.

Comprehensive recruitment of all income- and age-eligible prekindergarten students has been challenging. This bill would ensure a stronger working partnership among the departments of social services, health departments, and local education agencies (LEAs). This will encourage income-eligible families with age-eligible children to enroll in state-funded prekindergarten programs which could include public schools or child care programs with state-funded slots. The proposed process would ensure that the county's most vulnerable children receive the benefit of a prekindergarten experience to solidify their school readiness.

This enhanced procedure will ensure that LEAs are aware of more of the County's most vulnerable students.

For these reasons, we support this bill and ask for a favorable report.