



Our Mission

TO MAKE EVERY CHILD'S POTENTIAL A REALITY BY ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES
TO ADVOCATE FOR ALL CHILDREN.

*HACER UNA REALIDAD EL POTENCIAL DE CADA NIÑO AL COMPROMETER Y APODERAR LAS FAMILIAS
Y COMUNIDADES PARA QUE INTERCEDAN POR TODOS LOS NIÑOS.*

As an organization, MCCPTA holds the following as our Advocacy Priorities for 2022-2023:

ACCESS TO EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES:

- Offer equitable opportunities to all children to engage in challenging programming, including multiple career paths, electives and after-school activities.
- Provide adequate support to schools for special education and enrichment in every school.
- Make additional resources available for all children who are eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARMS), no matter which school they attend.
- Create and implement coordinated campaigns to narrow the gap between FARMS eligibility and enrollment.

CAPITAL FUNDS AND FACILITIES:

- Increase the capital improvements funding to reduce overcrowding, to properly maintain existing infrastructure to extend the useful life of our schools, and to ensure Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance in every building.
- Engage students, staff, families and area communities when gathering Key Facility Indicator (KFI) data so that it transparently reflects the full school experience before making recommendations for Major Capital Projects in the capital budget.
- In furtherance of equity, the socioeconomic makeup of the school population should be a factor in prioritization of projects, along with the condition and overutilization of buildings.

- Use available facilities more efficiently and innovatively by engaging with MCCPTA and school communities to consider all available options to reduce disparities in the utilization of school facilities across the county.
- The state and county capital budget should include improvements to infrastructure around schools, including roadways and adjacent pedestrian facilities to provide safe routes to schools.

OPERATING FUNDS:

- The county budget should provide funds to decrease class sizes and increase resources aimed at overcoming pandemic-related learning loss, closing the achievement/opportunity gap, and lifting underperforming students.
- Develop and fund a robust teacher retention and recruitment plan with sufficient support to MCPS Human Resources to combat Countywide teaching staff attrition and replenish the available substitute pool. MCPS Human Resources must apply best practices including diversity in hiring, flexible schedules, and innovative strategies like offering incentive pay for tuition stipends to education students to complete their student teaching practicums and accept jobs with MCPS at those identified schools.

COMMUNICATION:

- Maintain a strong MCCPTA-MCPS partnership with meaningful, two-way communication to ensure that families are informed of major policy, funding, procedural, curriculum and programmatic changes proposed or implemented in schools, school climate, and security issues, and to ensure that families' views and concerns are actively sought and factored into those proposals and changes.
- Establish minimum requirements, support, and measures of accountability around the School Improvement Plan process to facilitate school-based data transparency, community engagement, participation and collaboration in the development and ongoing evaluation of school improvement at every school.
- Implement outreach in multiple languages and with regular non-traditional approaches including community-based organizations, to ensure community feedback when implementing any new program or policy. Communications should reach current as well as future students and families, as well as area communities.

CURRICULUM:

- Create and publish, online and in print, curriculum guides for all courses.
- Include support enrichment, differentiated instruction, and appropriate challenges for all students, including students receiving special education (including IEPs and 504s), English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and/or gifted education services.
- Provide professional development for all staff implementing new curriculum and technology.
- Include diverse content and culturally relevant teaching strategies, reflecting the diversity of the student body, in the curriculum for all grades.
- Follow evidence-based best practices for use of digital content in the classroom and review how time spent on screens relates to outcomes.
- Include more hands-on and experiential learning and, use of manipulatives, and less use of “paper” (i.e., worksheets) and electronics-based instruction.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION:

- Improve newcomers' experience with more open, welcoming environments in all schools, and provide students and their families the information, services, and encouragement they need for the students to be successful.
- Improve the Family-School Partnership by facilitating intentionally inclusive family and community outreach that empowers all students and families to participate in easily accessible communication methods that include continuous feedback and improvement opportunities.
- Implement proactive, measurable actions based on reports from the Anti-Racist System Audit, the countywide boundary analysis, and the evaluation of the ESOL model, and the respective community discussions of the findings, ensuring accountability for evaluation of each recommendation and timely implementation, where appropriate.
- Continue the intentional work of training staff, guardians, and students to engage in restorative justice practices, which enhance equitable outcomes and long-term conflict resolution skills.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

- Expand available wellness resources to all MCPS students, including mental health services, prevention and intervention for suicidal ideation, and supports to students with mental health and substance use disorders, as well as staff training for trauma-informed practices.
- Monitor and publicly post air, water, and athletic field quality at all schools. Equitably update schools, as necessary, to provide comfortable facilities with clean air and water, and safe outdoor infrastructure, prioritize HVAC projects and other quality of life and safety projects. Maintain filters replacement schedules to maximize effectiveness.
- Meet the goals of the MCPS Sustainability Policy and of the 2017 Climate Action Resolution of reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035 and increasing and maintaining MCPS participation in the MD Green Schools Program with equity and inclusion of all voices. Commit to climate resilient land management, reducing paved surfaces, and replacing impervious parking areas with pervious paving.
- Advocate for universal, higher quality, culturally appropriate, locally sourced, school meals with options for vegetarians and students with other dietary needs.
- Ensure sensitivity to students who are fasting when scheduling tests and other high value assignments.
- Allow for age-appropriate movement in the classroom, to avoid long periods of sitting, and encourage the use of outdoor recess when there is no significant condition or weather event that precludes the safe use of outdoor spaces.

SCHOOL CLIMATE AND SECURITY:

- Continue to assess school climate and maintain safe conditions and positive school environments that protect all students and adults from bullying, discrimination, harassment, and assault.
- Expeditiously improve security in all school buildings by providing secure vestibules at all remaining schools, expanding video surveillance in and around all facilities, and ensuring adequate MCPS security staff at all schools, and updated and functioning security equipment and a/v equipment.
- Provide safe, reliable, equitable, and timely passage to and from schools and school-related activities, including arrival and dismissal configurations and procedures, sidewalks, crossing guards, and safe protected bus stops, and fund and undertake a study for multi-source student transportation consistent with CDC, Surgeon General, and National PTA guidelines on bell times.

- Address, track, reduce, and transparently report to the MCPS community incidences of bias, discrimination, bullying, hate, sexual and other harassment, and abuse of and assault on students within schools, on school buses, and during school activities. Develop, share, and implement policies and procedures to ensure timely communication with students, staff, and guardians of these incidents.
- Develop, share, and implement policies and procedures to ensure timely communication with students, staff, and families during emergency situations and avoid breakdowns in communication during crises.
- Advocate for education on policies and laws that increase safety and reduce access and proximity to firearms by students and school communities, to reduce violence, including self-harm. Provide age-appropriate, evidence-based lessons at all schools and grade levels for firearm safety, violence prevention, online and in person bullying and harassment, childhood obesity, suicide, and substance use prevention.

~ Adopted January 31, 2023 ~