

Hello! I'm Tangara your MCCPTA representative (Montgomery County Council of PTAs) for TMES. If you have questions or need assistance signing up for events, please email me at mccpta@tmespta.org.

Maryland's Largest School District

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

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URGENT MESSAGE FROM THE MCPS SCHOOL SYSTEM MEDICAL OFFICER

DECEMBER 9, 2022

Dear MCPS Community,

I am reaching out to make sure students, staff, and families are aware of a very dangerous trend in substance use affecting our community. Synthetic opioids, specifically illegally made fentanyl, are increasingly responsible for overdoses and overdose deaths. In 2021, over 70% of all overdoses in Montgomery County were fentanyl related including substances laced with fentanyl or substances that look like something else (e.g., Xanax, Adderall, Percocet, or oxycodone) but had fentanyl in them. MCPS continues to work diligently alongside local government authorities and community partners on a comprehensive and coordinated approach to this dangerous epidemic.

What is illicit fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a prescription medication for pain that is 50-100 times more powerful than morphine. The type of fentanyl driving overdose deaths is illegally made and sold in the form of powder, pills, liquid, or nasal sprays. Other drug products like marijuana, cocaine, heroin or illegally sold pills thought to be prescription medicine may be laced with illicit fentanyl, without the knowledge of the user.

Why are youth taking drugs, such as fentanyl and how are they getting them?

Teenagers and even younger children may use illicit substances for multiple reasons. Experimentation or peer pressure may prompt a single episode of use that leads to further problems. Youth struggling with mental health symptoms, pain, or already using other drugs may be more likely to experiment or have problems related to substance use. With fentanyl, it is important to know that individuals may not even know they are taking it, as it is often incorporated into other substances. Drug traffickers may use fentanyl to increase the potency of their products.

Full Message [HERE](#)

If you would like training on naloxone administration, you can register at [this link](#). To access free naloxone, Montgomery County residents can call DHHS Harm Reduction Services at 240-777-1836.

MCCPTA Advocacy Committee – 2022-2023 Advocacy Priorities (Feedback Wanted)

The Advocacy committee is one of the largest in MCCPTA because it encompasses several subcommittees. View a brief description of priorities [HERE](#) . MCCPTA is requesting feedback/comments/questions from our community. See below for more instructions.



2022-2023 Advocacy Priorities Back-Up Information

Mission: To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

CIP Priorities:

- **Funding CIP:** Advocate for State and County Legislators to increase the capital budgets to reduce overcrowding, renovate or replace buildings that have exceeded their lifecycle, and maintain existing infrastructure. Encourage County Council to review and enhance revenue sources to compensate for lost funding resulting from council enacted policies that reduced impact tax rates and borrowing capacity. All funds should be spent equitably throughout the county.
- **Prioritizing Projects:** MCPS should engage students, staff, and school communities when gathering KFI (Key Facility Indicator) data so that it transparently reflects the full school experience before making recommendations for Major Capital Projects in the capital budget, like the Operating Budget. Consider the socioeconomic makeup of the school population as an important factor when prioritizing projects, along with the condition and overutilization of buildings. Strive to use available facilities more efficiently by engaging with MCCPTA and school communities to consider all available options to reduce disparities in the utilization of school facilities across the county. Monitor and publicly post air, water, and field quality at schools. Equitably update schools as necessary to provide comfortable schools with clean air, water, and safe outdoor infrastructure, prioritize HVAC projects and other quality of life and safety projects in the CIP Budget.
- **Safe Routes:** Increase the number of crossing guards and improve surrounding infrastructure to provide safe pedestrian and biking routes to school, following the Vision Zero model. Bus stop locations and surrounding infrastructure should be reviewed for safety, with consideration of traffic conditions and the need for protective barriers such as bollards. Ensure adequate buses and drivers to prevent overcrowding and abandoned routes. Ensure coordination between MCPS, MDOT and other agencies to ensure safe routes to school.
- **Sustainability and Green Schools:** MCCPTA will work with MCPS, county planning and community partners to 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 100% participation in the MD Green Schools Program by 2035.

Curriculum Priorities:

- **Communication:**
 - Ensure clear, simple, accurate, and timely communication to our diverse population in multiple languages and through multiple channels regarding the education (including progress of learning recovery, performance metrics, selection criteria, standards, curriculum content and changes, and school/program choice options) and wellbeing of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students.
 - Implement feedback tools and procedures to eliminate the inequities speakers of other languages experience in participating in their student's education.

View the detailed 10-page document [HERE](#) Send Feedback to mccpta@tmespta.org by 01-08-2023.

MCCPTA Curriculum Committee- **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

Digital Balance Resolution

This resolution is being considered by MCCPTA and our PTA has been asked to vote on this resolution (1. approve it, 2. reject it, or 3. amend it) on **January 29** at the delegates assembly. As your rep I can submit comments until **January 10**.

[HERE](#) is the language of the Digital Balance Resolution

Here are answers to Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQs](#))

[Slideshow](#) presented at the delegates meeting.

Here are the [MSDE Best Practices](#).



Resolution on Digital Balance

Event- Multiple Dates (see below)

**Montgomery County Public Schools
Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee
(SECAC)**

***Attention Parents/Guardians of Students
with Special Needs***

Please attend our virtual SECAC meetings:

7:00 p.m.– 9:00 p.m.

September 22, 2022

October 27, 2022

November 17, 2022

December 2022–TBD *

January 26, 2023

February 23, 2023

March 23, 2023

April 27, 2023

May 25, 2023

- Connect with other parents/guardians of students with special needs
- Dialogue with special education administrators
- Learn about topics of interest

**For more information and how to access the Zoom link, visit
our SECAC website at:**

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/special-education/seac/

Links to the virtual meetings will be sent via email to
the SEAC List Serve

If you would like to be added to the List Serve, provide your email information to:

Mrs. Rosa M. Aleman

Rosa_Aleman@mcpsmd.org

**Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Monifa B. McKnight, scheduled to attend.*



More Information [HERE](#)

Event- Multiple Dates (see below)

Montgomery County Public Schools
Comité de Asesoramiento de Ciudadanos de Educación Especial
(SECAC)

Atención Padres/Apoderados de Estudiantes
con Necesidades Especiales

Por favor asistan a nuestras reuniones virtuales de SECAC,
que se llevarán a cabo de:
7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

22 de septiembre, 2022

27 de octubre, 2022

17 de noviembre, 2022

Diciembre, 2022* por determinar

26 de enero, 2023

23 de febrero, 2023

23 de marzo, 2023

27 de abril, 2023

25 de mayo, 2023

- Conéctese con otros padres/madres/apoderados de estudiantes con necesidades especiales
- Dialogue con administradores de educación especial
- Infórmese sobre temas de interés

Para más información, y como puede tener acceso a las reuniones por medio de Zoom, visite nuestra página de internet en:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/special-education/seac/

Los enlaces para las reuniones virtuales serán enviados por correo electrónico a la Lista de Participantes de SECAC.

Si usted desea ser agregado/a a nuestra Lista de Participantes, provea su correo electrónico a:

Sra. Rosa M. Aleman
Rosa_Aleman@mcpsmd.org

**El Superintendente, Dr. Monifa B. McKnight, asistirá a la reunión.*

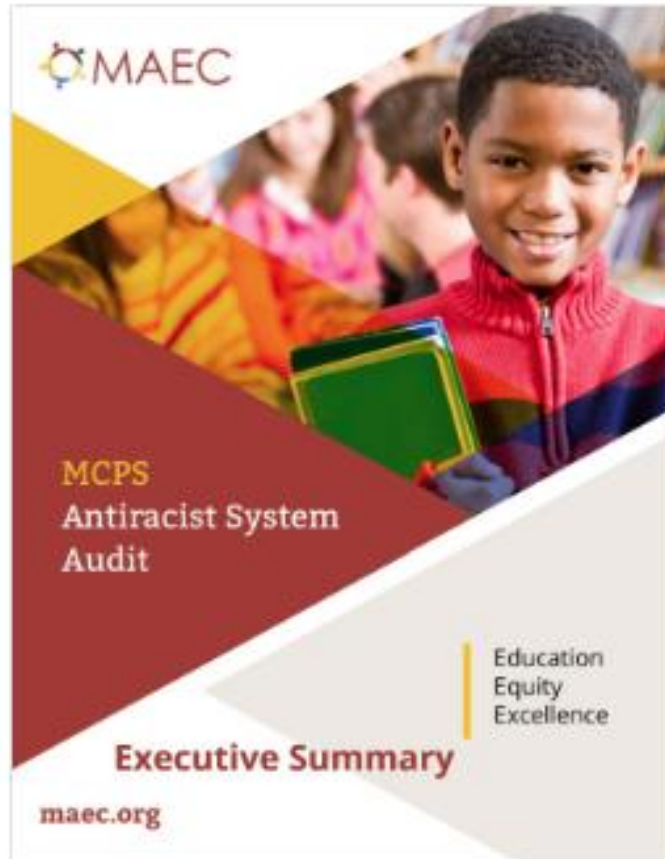


Más información [HERE](#)

MCPS Antiracist Audit

View [HERE](#)

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MCPS Antiracist Audit **Executive Summary**