



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, especially at the primary and middle school levels.
- Make additional resources available for all children who are eligible for FARMS, no matter which school they attend.
- Create coordinated campaigns to narrow the gap between FARMS eligibility and enrollment.

CAPITAL FUNDS AND FACILITIES:

- To accommodate the growing student population, MCCPTA supports an increase in the capital budget in order to reduce overcrowding and to maintain existing infrastructure.
- Engage students, staff, families and area 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.
- 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.

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, 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 curriculum guides for all courses.
- Include support enrichment and appropriate challenges for all children, including children with Special Needs (including IEPs and 504s), enrolled in ESOL, and the Gifted, in all curriculum.
- 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.

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.
- Take proactive, measurable steps based on the findings and recommendations of the MCPS Anti-Racist System Audit, with accountability for ensuring that all recommended actions are affected within a reasonable time.
- Continue the intentional work of training staff 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.
- Appropriately install, maintain, and monitor all school fields to ensure the safety of children during outdoor activities.
- 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.

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.
- Expediently 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 security staff at all schools.
- Provide safe and timely passage to 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, transparently report, and reduce 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 families during emergency situations and avoid breakdowns in communication during crises.

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