



5/29/2026

Dear President Rivera-Oven, Vice President Wolff, and members of the Montgomery County Board of Education,

The Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA) urges the Montgomery County Board of Education to reject the proposal to eliminate twenty (20) school psychologist positions for the upcoming school year. MSPA is a professional organization representing about 500 school psychologists in Maryland. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across the state. School psychologists provide comprehensive psychological services to children in Maryland's schools.

Our concerns are threefold: (1) that reductions of this magnitude will have district-wide impacts on student services and supports, (2) that these changes are likely to disproportionately affect students with disabilities and other vulnerable student populations, and (3) that the timing of the proposal has limited opportunities for families, educators, and community members to provide meaningful input prior to the anticipated vote.

1. **With the proposed reductions, MCPS would have approximately one school psychologist for every 1,300 students**—nearly three times the National Association of School Psychologists' recommended ratio of 1:500. Individual case loads may actually range as high as four-or-five-times recommended. This reduction in force would directly affect 60 schools and approximately 30,000 students by reducing access to school psychological services. The impact, however, would extend district-wide, as fewer school psychologists would be responsible for the same volume of needs.
2. **School psychologists play a legally mandated role in the special education process** as qualified examiners who help determine eligibility for services and supports. Beyond evaluations, they may provide mandated counseling, behavioral intervention, consultation, progress monitoring, and crisis response for many students with disabilities. *Reducing school psychologist positions does not reduce these responsibilities; it simply leaves fewer professionals available to meet increasing student needs and legal requirements.*
3. This substantial reduction in force was announced at the most recent Board meeting following an initial recommendation to eliminate only two school psychologist positions. In fact, this was *in addition to* announcing eliminating 40 school social worker positions. Because the expanded proposal was introduced later in the process, **community members have a limited opportunity to provide meaningful feedback before the**



anticipated June 4 vote on a significant change affecting services for vulnerable students.

MSPA recognizes the difficult financial realities local educational agencies currently face and understands the necessity of developing sustainable budgets. However, reducing essential, legally mandated student services is unlikely to improve student outcomes and may have significant unintended consequences for students and families.

MSPA therefore urges the Montgomery County Board of Education to carefully consider the likely impact of these reductions—particularly for students with disabilities—and to explore alternatives that better protect student access to critical psychological and educational services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam M. Ritts'.

Sam M. Ritts, Ed.S., NCSP
President, Maryland School Psychologists' Association

Concerned students, families, and community members of Montgomery County Public Schools may contact [the board of education](#). Interested parties may review a community [petition regarding this issue here](#).