

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Related Entries: ABA, DDA-RA, ECM, ECM-RA, KGC-RA

Responsible Office: Curriculum and Instructional Programs

Child Care

A. PURPOSE

To affirm the importance of high quality child care and education settings for all children of Montgomery County.

To establish the scope of Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) role in partnering with the child care community in addressing child care needs.

B. ISSUE

High quality child care is care that supports, enriches, and enhances the educational experience of MCPS students. Early childhood experiences, from birth through the first five years of life, in the home, child care setting, MCPS, and the community are critical in forming the foundation for students' school readiness and future success as lifelong learners. Further, throughout their school careers, many school-aged children and their families require safe, affordable, and high quality child care that contributes to the healthy growth and social and emotional development of school-aged children.

C. POSITION

The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) affirms the importance of efforts to increase the availability of high quality child care that supports, enriches, and enhances the educational experiences of MCPS students. The Board supports efforts to expand child care within the limits of available resources.

1. Facilities

MCPS will continue to consider the availability of suitable facilities for community child care as it utilizes and modernizes the existing facilities and plans future school sites, as follows:

- a) Continue to include child care programs in plans for future schools upon request to the county executive and with the approval of funds budgeted specifically for that purpose by the county government.
- b) Identify potential sites, both at operating and future school sites, for the placement of structures for use by high quality child care programs where feasible.
- c) Identify and contract out the use of space within school facilities by high quality child care programs that best support the MCPS educational program under the following terms, as appropriate:
 - (1) Shared use, provided such use does not adversely impact the MCPS instructional program, or
 - (2) Joint occupancy under the provisions of the Board's Policy ECM, *Joint Occupancy of Montgomery County Public Schools Facilities*.

2. Collaboration

- a) MCPS advocates for the child care needs of Montgomery County students and families through engagement with federal, state, and local government agencies, including the Montgomery County Commission on Child Care. Consistent with Policy ABA, *Community Involvement*, MCPS collaborates with a broad range of community members and organizations that reflect the diverse citizenry and interests of Montgomery County.
- b) MCPS shares the school system's expertise to assist child care providers to increase the availability of high quality child care that meets the diverse needs of children. Sharing expertise with providers may include, but is not limited to, linking providers and families with needed community services and providing advice and referrals regarding licensing, accreditation, credentials, or professional development resources.
- c) MCPS contributes, as appropriate, published student population projections and other relevant published data or research findings to child care providers and other community members engaged in planning processes for child care services.
- d) MCPS stays informed on and advocates for, as appropriate, federal, state, and local legislative or executive initiatives impacting child care and school

readiness.

- e) MCPS may enter into partnerships with community agencies providing child care that directly benefits MCPS students, parents, and the MCPS educational program.
- f) MCPS may provide direct services, including, but not limited to, transportation, food services, or professional development as specified and funded in partnership or collaborative agreements with child care programs.

D. REVIEW AND REPORTING

- 1. The Board will receive updates on the planned efforts and/or ongoing issues concerning child care in Montgomery County as appropriate.
- 2. This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board policy review process.

Policy History: Adopted by Resolution No. 27-86, January 14, 1986; reformatted by Resolution No. 333-86, June 12, 1986, and Resolution No. 458-86, August 12, 1986, and accepted by Resolution No. 209-91, February 25, 1991; amended by Resolution No. 74-12, February 14, 2012.