

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations, Inc., (MCCPTA), a federation of local PTAs/PTSAs, is chartered by the Maryland PTA. Its aims, in addition to the five objects of all PTAs, are:

- To strengthen the work of each unit by exchanging and pooling information and experiences;
- To combine and lead PTA membership throughout the county on county-wide, state and national issues affecting the welfare of children and youth;
- To provide leadership training and assist in the formation of new PTAs;
- To coordinate advocacy on issues of common concern.

Founded in 1944, MCCPTA has grown from 15 PTAs to nearly 200. This growth reflects the vital roles PTAs have had – individually and in council – in meeting the needs of our children.

MCCPTA works to shape and advocate for school budgets consistent with school needs. In its earlier years, MCCPTA worked to secure a junior college, home rule and an elected school board for the county. MCCPTA has had especially active standing committees working for improvements in curriculum, special education, education for the gifted and talented, cultural arts opportunities in schools, middle and high school programs, and counseling. Committees have been established to focus on parent involvement, grading and reporting, technology and other advocacy priorities. MCCPTA presents public forums and workshops on concerns such as school safety, bullying and gang violence, diversity and parent involvement.

MCCPTA works with MCPS to provide qualified representatives for task forces and study groups, and to help disseminate information about changes in school system and Board of Education policy. MCCPTA also cooperates with the County Council and other County agencies on matters that affect children and youth.