

Student Attendance - Excused Absences for Mental Health Needs

Sponsors: Obse Abebe and Nikhitha Balijepalli

WHEREAS Montgomery County Regional Student Government Association is committed to addressing and advocating for mental health supports in schools for students;

WHEREAS in Fall 2021 MCPS Director of Psychological Services saw an increased number of students being referred to Montgomery County Crisis Center “due to issues of self harm and suicidal ideation”;

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine has had devastating and lasting effects on students’ mental health and wellness;

WHEREAS Montgomery County’s Mobile Crisis Team made 657 visits from January to April of 2021, increasing 68% from 2020;

WHEREAS since the removal of Student Resources Officers in MCPS schools, there have been no extra funding or structures for mental health and wellness place in schools;

WHEREAS A Maryland General Assembly bill inquires that a student absence due to mental health needs is a lawful and excused absence;

WHEREAS this bill provides that a county board may not require a note from a physician in order to confirm an excused absence due to mental health needs;

Be it Hereby Resolved: The Montgomery County Regional Student Government Association is in support of [HB0118 Student Attendance - Excused Absences for Mental Health Needs](#) and will advocate on behalf of those principles.

