

Appendix A: Chief Operating Officer's Response



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MARYLAND
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

February 19, 2016



Mr. Edward L. Blansitt III
Inspector General
Montgomery County Maryland
Office of the Inspector General
51 Monroe Street, Suite 802
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Blansitt:

Thank you for providing Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) with the opportunity to review and comment on the Office of the Inspector General Report, *Purchase Card Policies and Procedures of the Montgomery County Public Schools*. We share a mutual interest in ensuring a purchasing card program that has strong internal controls and procedures. The use of purchasing cards is a recognized best practice for sound fiscal management for procurement of necessary purchases that total \$100 or less, and our staff have continually enhanced our fiscal controls for this program, most recently through our participation in a consortium of local government agencies that use JPMorgan Chase MasterCards for procurement of small purchases.

We are pleased that, after extensive and thorough analysis, the Office of the Inspector General's audit found that MCPS has documented and incorporated into our practice all of the 28 significant purchase card controls that your research identified in its review of national and state guidelines and reports. We appreciate your recommendations to further enhance our purchasing card program, and we will take these recommendations into consideration as a part of our organizational commitment to ongoing continuous improvement.

Again, thank you for providing MCPS the opportunity to review and comment on the report and collaboratively working with us throughout the audit process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew M. Zuckerman".

Andrew M. Zuckerman, Ed.D.
Chief Operating Officer

AMZ:sro

Copy to:

Members of the Board of Education	Mrs. DeGraba
Mr. Bowers	Mrs. Lazor
Mr. Civin	Mrs. Regalia
Mrs. Chen	

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

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