

Testimony From Rachel Schwartz:

Please **vote no** on the 2026-2027 budget as it is presented.

Gov. Moore Says Maryland is the state that leaves no one behind, yet MCPS and the county continue to leave children behind.

Your budget as written continues this trend, by not putting in any accountability nor sunshine measures for mcps. An inspector they appoint is not real oversight.

Graduation rates are down. Each student who doesn't graduate isn't a statistic, they are someone's child whose future is now more limited. Each family whose child's educational rights are violated has to stand up alone against one of the largest and most well-funded school districts in the country.

MCPS budget and budgeting decisions lack sunshine. Their plans move students around instead of changing the culture of the schools and central office leadership. How many millions did they invest in storage of things, while children are sitting in classrooms with mold? (things were prioritized over children) How is the electric bus fiasco never-ending? Every year you give more and more taxpayer money as the schools get worse and there are less students. Not only that, but the mcps leadership has deeply divided our county with their poorly planned "boundary study" pitting neighbors and neighborhoods against each other.

People who live in Montgomery County, cant afford to continue to support this culture. Children deserve futures. Families need to be able to stay in their homes without having to leave because the taxes are too high. (Even if you don't raise taxes you keep assessing astronomically upwards).

We are now homeschooling our child. MSDE found violation in our child's case. How many more children will you enable mcps to harm? Please say no to the budget as it doesn't protect our children and their future.