

MCPS 2024-2025 Back to School Checklist

This checklist is intended to be a resource for parents, helping them navigate some often buried or unknown policies and actions available to protect and advocate for their children attending MCPS. M4LMoCo exists to unify, educate, and empower parents as the primary decision-makers in raising their children – especially and including their education.

- Complete your Annual Notice for Directory Information and Student Privacy by September 12th, 2024
<https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/281-13.pdf>
- Familiarize yourself with your rights under PPR.A.
<https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/ppra%20notice%20english%20for%202021-2022.pdf>
 - If you want to opt your child out of any data collection of a protected class, put it in writing, to your child’s principal and teacher(s). Example letter here:
<https://portal.momsforliberty.org/files/5107/>
- Familiarize yourself with Regulation IJA – School Counseling Programs and Service.
<https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/ijara.pdf>
 - If you want to opt your child out of ongoing responsive counseling services without your prior written consent, put it in writing to your child’s principal and counselor(s). This could include opting your children out of SEL lessons.

e.	At all school levels, the school counselors will provide annual parental notification of services that the student may access. Parents/guardians will be notified about ongoing prevention and responsive counseling services that may be offered to students.
f.	At the elementary level, parents/guardians will be notified in writing about specific on-going prevention and responsive counseling services which will be provided to their child.
g.	Students may participate in on-going responsive counseling services unless parents/guardians explicitly withdraw implied consent. Not responding to notification about on-going responsive counseling services will be interpreted as consent for service.

- Middle School Parents: Familiarize yourself with the English Language Arts curriculum. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10rXMartGmyDZDMhf0P-U0W18It8pMd4F>
 - Which books are your kids reading? If they’re reading books in English class that aren’t listed as part of the curriculum, ask why!
 - Parents of middle school above grade level learners: Is your child reading the enriched novel texts listed in the Google Docs above? If not – ask why! Schools are supposed to be providing these materials per MCPS Policy and COMAR.

- Familiarize yourself with Regulation IGP-RA – Comprehensive Health Education Instructional Program.

<https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/igpra.pdf>

- Email your child’s principal and inquire about joining the required annual stakeholder group.
- Email your child’s principal and request copies of the planning group’s annual report.

- a) The planning group is composed of parents/guardians, teachers, local school administrators, and student representatives, where appropriate.
- b) Student suggestions and recommendations concerning course offerings, their content, and the instructional materials used will be permitted and will be actively solicited by the faculty and administration when appropriate.
- c) The planning group activities are monitored annually. Family Life and Human Sexuality (FLHS) Worksheet Annual Report, MCPS Forms 345-30ag (for elementary schools), 345-30bg (for middle schools), and 345-30cg (for high schools), are completed by each school, as appropriate, and summarize planning group participation, and include FLHS program review and evaluation activities conducted by the planning group.

- Familiarize yourself with IIB-RA – Evaluation and Selection of Instructional Materials and Library Books.

<https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/iibra.pdf>

- If you find that your child is reading a book you disagree with, here’s a template for us to email your child’s principal:
<https://portal.momsforliberty.org/files/5108/>
- If you can’t resolve the issue at the school level, here’s the form to submit at the district level:
<https://portal.momsforliberty.org/media/files/files/56c0cd5b/evaluation-and-selection-of-instructional-materials.pdf>
- Bookmark the MCPS DAE Website: <https://dae.mcpsmd.org/>
 - Here, you can see library and curriculum books and media material (or disapproved) in MCPS. An excellent resource for seeing if materials are age/grade appropriate for your child.

- Create your child’s MCPS Library Book Reading List through [Destiny Discovery](#)
 - You need to log-in using your child’s MCPS email and password, but yes, you can choose your favorite books and select which books your child can take from their MCPS library.

- Once it's created, email your media specialist and let him or her know that the favorite books are the only ones your child can check out without your permission.
- You can have the school's librarian put an alert on your child's account to only allow grade-level approved materials to be checked out. Any books above grade level would need your permission.
- Bookmark <https://hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/search> and use it often to gauge if your child is reading challenging, grade-level appropriate books, etc.
- Download the MCPS 2024-2025 school year calendar, including the Board of Ed calendar. <https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/calendar/>
- Become a Moms for Liberty MoCo member to stay up to date & get more involved in parental rights and public education. As of August 2024, becoming a member protects your child from the Department of Education enforcing Title IX changes in their school/against them. Learn more here: <https://portal.momsforliberty.org/chapters/montgomery-county-md/>
- Order a Free Speech Flag Fundraising Kit for your child's school. <https://portal.momsforliberty.org/forms/mcps-freedom-flag-fundraiser/>