

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

October 24, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: Montgomery County (Virginia) Public Schools and Recess (09-24-18-01-C)

During Board Comments, Ms. Ortman-Fouse requested the following information:

Question C

How Montgomery County Public Schools/VA is able to operationalize having 2 recess classes for their elementary school classes. How were they able to implement this practice?

Response

The Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Education recently made a change to its *Standards of Quality* of the *Code of Virginia*. As a result, recess is considered instructional time, allowing students to have up to 50 minutes of physical education or recess daily without impacting instructional requirements. Dr. Lois T. Graham, assistant superintendent for instruction, Montgomery County (Virginia) Public Schools, shared that the district believes the additional physical activity for students will result in students being more active and engaged in learning, and will help promote better learning overall.

The Montgomery County (Virginia) Public Schools district informed elementary school teachers that students should engage in physical activity each morning and afternoon. Students have physical education class for 30 minutes 2 days per week. On those days, teachers may schedule an additional 10 to 20 minutes of recess. On days when students do not have physical education class, recess may be scheduled for the morning and afternoon. Teachers also have the option of implementing unscheduled physical activity and will watch for times when students appear to be in need of a break.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Kimberly A. Statham, deputy superintendent of school support and improvement, Office of School Support and Improvement, at 240-740-3100.

JRS:KAS:AML:kde

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Executive Staff