



## **Campaign to Protect School Funding**

- ☑ **Good schools are good for everyone.** Good schools are the single biggest determining factor in property values. And in a knowledge-based economy, attracting and retaining good jobs depends on good schools. Together, that makes for great neighborhoods!
- ☑ Maryland schools have been rated #1 in the nation for four years in a row: and Montgomery County schools are some of the best in the state. MCPS is rated #1 for HS graduation rate amongst the 50 largest school systems in the country.
- ☑ **But school funding is at risk.** Some politicians – at both the state and county level – are abandoning their commitment to fund our schools.
- ☑ Last spring, the Montgomery County Council unilaterally cut the MCPS budget by \$72 million below the state’s required “Maintenance of Effort” level: a decision the State Board of Education said threatened “the basic funding cornerstone of Maryland public education.” The County Council’s actions have reduced local per-pupil spending by \$1,490
- ☑ Now some in Annapolis are proposing that the state cut more than \$200 million in state aid for education – by shifting the state’s funding of the pension plan for teachers and other school employees onto the counties. Shifting pension costs doesn’t solve any problem: it just worsens the budget problems facing county governments.
- ☑ **Our signs are designed to remind the public of the value of our schools; and to call on our elected officials to honor their historic commitments to funding our schools.**
- ☑ How can your friends and neighbors help? Encourage them to go to [www.mceanea.org](http://www.mceanea.org) to email their County Council representatives, state senators and delegates to urge them to protect funding for our schools by: 1) preventing the state from shifting state pension costs onto the counties and 2) ensuring that the county maintains its per-pupil funding.