

# PTACHC Legislative Update – MARCH 11, 2024



+



Or



+



# MARCH 11 2024

**MAR 7 4/7PM: HCPSS BOE BUDGET VOTE**

**MAR 7 – 7PM: GEORGE HOWARD BUILDING – PLANNING BOARD REVIEW OF CAPITAL BUDGET**

**MAR 7 – 7PM:VIRTUAL – COUNTY EXECUTIVE HEARING ON BUDGET**

**MAR 11 – 11AM: Virtual Board of Education Meeting - Capital Budget Criterion Standardization Work Group**

<https://hcpss.zoom.us/j/96365236693>

**MAR 12 – 9:30AM GEORGE HOWARD BUILDING - COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY**

**MAR 14 – 7:30PM ELKRIDGE ELEMENTARY: BOE COFFEE & CONVERSATION -**

**MAR 16 – HIGH NOON: HOWARD HIGH - PTACHC BOE CANDIDATE FORUM**

**MAR 18 – 4PM/7PM: HCPSS BOE MEETING**

**MAR 18 – 7PM: GEORGE HOWARD BUILDING - COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING**

**MAR 26 – 9:30AM: GEORGE HOWARD BUILDING - COUNTY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

**APR 1 – 7PM: GEORGE HOWARD BUILDING – COUNTY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**APR 16 – 5:30PM GEORGE HOWARD BUILDING – EXECUTIVE BUDGET / START OF COUNCIL RESTORATION**



# MARCH 7 2024 – Budget Vote on “D”

	FTEs	Supr Original Budget	Scenario A	Scenario B	BOE at End of 2-29	Scenario C	Scenario D	
Class Size	variable	+2	+1	no change from current	no change form current	+1 @ MS/HS	+1 @ MS/HS	
Media Specialist	7.5		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> =included
HS Science paraed	7.5		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Testing Assistants	6.5				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
HC Conservancy	1		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Photographer	1		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Assistive Tech-DSE	2				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
DSE Resource Teachers	2				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DSE=Department of Special Education
								Temporary Employees are Contract Employees that provide Close Adult Supervision for Students Who have that included in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
DSE Temporary Employess	current				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
DSE Temporary Employess	half of current					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
DEI Staff (Coord &Facilitator)	3				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DEI=Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Curricular Field					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SMOB/HCASC Support	0.5				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Special Educ Independent Review	n/a				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Summer 2024 BSAP/GT Enrichment	n/a					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Summer 2025 BSAP/GT Enrichment--June funding	n/a				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Print Shop					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
MPIA Compliance					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
ES GT	20					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
ES 3rd grade strings	12					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
ES GT ≥40% FARMs	9						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
ES 3rd grade strings ≥40% FARMs	3						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Price tag above								

SMOB=Student Member of the Board  
 HCASC=Howard County Assoc. of Student Councils

## Motion & Voting

★ Move that the Board restore the 2024 BSAP/GT funding in the amount of \$750,000 for Scenario D.

Motion by Robyn Scates, second by Jennifer Swickard Mallo.  
 Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
 Yea: Jolene Mosley, Antonia Watts, Jacquelin McCoy, Robyn Scates, Linfeng Chen, Jennifer Swickard Mallo  
 Not Present at Vote: Yun Lu


★ Move approval of Scenario D as modified.

Motion by Antonia Watts, second by Jolene Mosley.  
 Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
 Yea: Jolene Mosley, Antonia Watts, Jacquelin McCoy, Robyn Scates, Jennifer Swickard Mallo  
 Nay: Linfeng Chen  
 Not Present at Vote: Yun Lu

# MAR 2024

## HCPSS BUDGET PASSED BY BOE <https://www.hcpss.org/about-us/budgets/>


### Work Session

 March 5, 2024, 4:30 p.m.

 [Archived video](#)

[Work Session Agenda & Documents](#)

### Work Session and Adoption of FY 2025 Operating & Capital Budgets and FY 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program

 March 7, 2024, 4 p.m.

 [Archived video](#)

[Work Session Agenda & Documents](#)

### Responses to Board Submitted Questions

[Feb. 1 Report Out \(PDF\)](#)


[Feb. 9 Report Out \(PDF\)](#)

[Feb. 15 Report Out \(PDF\)](#)

[Feb. 29 Report Out \(PDF\)](#)


[March 5 Report Out \(PDF\)](#)

### Board-Approved Requested Budget

 [Press Release: Board of Education Adopts Requested FY 2025 Operating and Capital Budgets, and FY 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program](#)

## Board of Education Holds Additional Work Sessions & Public Hearings

Following the adoption of its proposed budget, the Board of Education holds additional work sessions and public hearings, as needed.

 March-May 2024

## County Executive Submits Proposed Budget


The Howard County Executive reviews the Board's request and submits a proposed Howard County budget to the Howard County Council.

 April 2024

[Howard County Government Budget Website](#) →

## County Council Adopts Budget

The Howard County Council holds public hearings, implements revisions, and adopts a budget for the county that includes funding the school system.

 May 2024

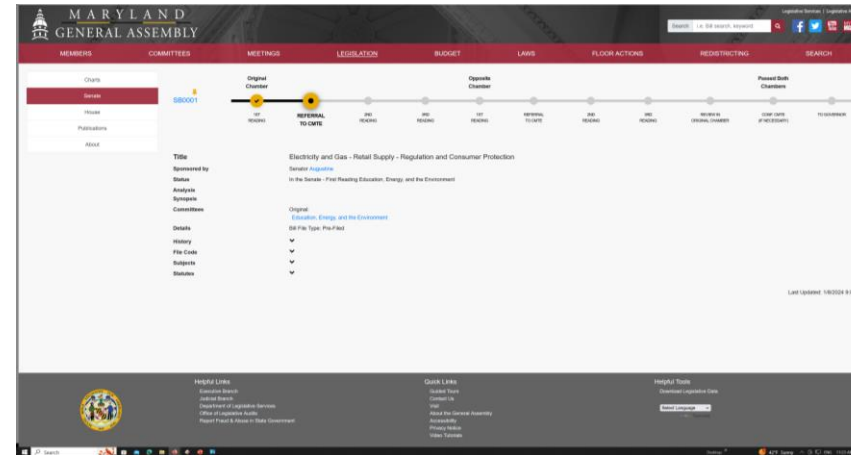
[County Council Budget Website](#) →

[County Council Budget Calendar](#) →

## Board of Education Adopts Final Budget

The Board of Education adopts a detailed school system budget, which serves as the final Approved Operating Budget.

 May 23, 2024, 4 p.m.



# Maryland General Assembly

**1186 Senate and 1523 House Bills So Far**

**See HB1450/SB1186:School Funding**

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb1450Appropriation> Hearing 3/12 at 12:00 p.m.

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/>



# **Howard County Delegation Howard County “Local” Bills**

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/state-delegationgov/state-delegation>

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/SubjectIndex/howardc?ys=2024rs>

NOTE: AMENDMENTS DETERMINING FINAL ACTION MAY BE REFLECTED LATER IN MGA BILL TEXT  
AS BILL GOES THROUGH CHAMBERS

Howard County – Public Campaign Financing – Board of Education

Ho. Co. 1–24 - **Passed by the Delegation** on February 7, 2024

By: Senator Lam

For the purpose of authorizing the governing body of Howard County to establish a system of public campaign financing for members of the county board of education; and generally relating to public campaign financing in Howard County.

Howard County Board of Education – Board Member Terms and Compensation Commission

Ho. Co. 2–24 - **Passed by the Delegation** on February 7, 2024 By: Senator Lam For the purpose of altering the terms of the members of the Howard County Board of Education; establishing the Howard County Board of Education Compensation Commission; and generally relating to the terms of members of the Howard County Board of Education and to the Howard County Board of Education Compensation Commission.

Howard County Board of Education – Liquidated Damages – Model Policy and Requirements

Ho. Co. 3–24 - **Passed by the Delegation** as amended on February 7, 2024 By: Senator Lam For the purpose of requiring the Howard County Board of Education, on or before a certain date and in consultation with the Howard County Executive and the Howard County Council, to publish a model policy concerning the inclusion and use of liquidated damages provisions in procurement contracts; requiring certain student transportation procurement contracts to include a liquidated damages clause consistent with the model policy, subject to a certain exception; requiring certain documentation of a decision not to pursue certain liquidated damages under certain circumstances; and generally relating to Howard County Board of Education procurements and liquidated damages provisions.

Columbia Association Annual Charge – Lease Requirements, Governing Documents, and Income Tax Subtraction Modification

Ho. Co. 4–24 By: Delegate Hill For the purpose of requiring a written lease for residential real property in Columbia in Howard County to include information on the annual charge assessed by the Columbia Association under certain circumstances; requiring certain homeowners associations to include a certain provision related to the annual charge in their governing documents; allowing a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for a certain annual charge during certain taxable years; and generally relating to annual charges in Columbia in Howard County.

Howard County – Board of Education Elections – Ranked–Choice Voting

Ho. Co. 6-24 - **Passed by the Delegation** on February 7, 2024 By: Delegates Wu and Terrasa For the purpose of authorizing the Howard County Council to adopt, by law, a ranked–choice voting method for elections for the Howard County Board of Education; and generally relating to the use of ranked–choice voting for elections for the Howard County Board of Education.

Howard County – Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreements – Moderate Income Housing

Ho. Co. 8–24 - **Passed by the Delegation** as amended on February 7, 2024 By: Delegate Feldmark For the purpose of authorizing certain owners of real property and the governing body of Howard County to enter into payment in lieu of taxes agreements for maintaining a certain number of moderate income housing units at the property; and generally relating to payment in lieu of taxes agreements in Howard County.

Candidates for Village Board or Columbia Council in a Village of Columbia – Reports of Donations and Disbursements

Ho. Co. 10-24 - **Passed by the Delegation** on February 7, 2024 By: Delegate Terrasa For the purpose of requiring each village community association for a village of Columbia to require each candidate for election to the village board or the Columbia Council who receives donations or makes disbursements to file reports of the donations and disbursements with the village community association; requiring each village community association to make the reports of donations and disbursements available to the public; prohibiting a candidate for election to a village board or the Columbia Council who is elected from taking office if the candidate has failed to file a report of donations and disbursements; and generally relating to reports of donations and disbursements by candidates for village board or Columbia Council in a village of Columbia.

Howard County – Commercial Building Excise Tax – Board of Education Deferred Maintenance

Ho. Co. 13-24 By: Delegate Atterbeary For the purpose of authorizing the County Council of Howard County to impose an excise tax on commercial building construction; requiring the excise tax revenue to be used only for deferred maintenance needs identified by the Howard County Board of Education; and generally relating to a commercial building excise tax in Howard County and deferred maintenance in the Howard County Public School System.

Workgroup to Study the Fiscal and Operational Viability of Public–Private Partnerships for Howard County Public Schools – **Established**

Ho. Co. 14–24 - Passed by the Delegation as amended on February 8, 2024 By: Senator Lam For the purpose of establishing the Workgroup to Study the Fiscal and Operational Viability of Public–Private Partnerships for Howard County Public Schools; and generally relating to the Workgroup to Study the Fiscal and Operational Viability of Public–Private Partnerships for Howard County Public Schools.

Howard County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board – Term Length – Alteration

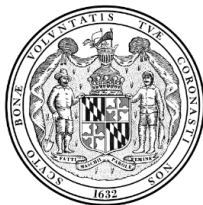
Ho. Co. 15-24 - **Passed by the Delegation** on February 7, 2024 By: Chair, Howard County Delegation For the purpose of limiting the term of a member serving on the agricultural preservation advisory board in Howard County to a certain number of years; authorizing members currently serving on the agricultural preservation advisory board in Howard County to complete their terms; and generally relating to the term length of a member serving on the agricultural preservation advisory board in Howard County.

Howard County Public Schools – Differences in Capital Budget Proposals – Report

Ho.Co. 16-24 - **Passed by the Delegation** as amended on February 7, 2024 By: Delegates Watson, Wu, and Ziegler, and Senator Hester and Lam For the purpose of requiring the Howard County Board of Education, under certain circumstances, to publish on the website of the Howard County public school system a certain report on the differences between the Howard County Superintendent of Schools’ proposed capital budget and the capital budget approved by the Howard County Board of Education; requiring the Howard County Board of Education to submit a certain report to the General Assembly under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the capital budget of Howard County Public Schools.

Howard County - Task Force to Study Reallocation of Transfer Tax Revenue

Ho. Co. 18-24 - **Passed by the Delegation** as amended on February 8, 2024 By: Delegate Wu For the purpose of establishing the Howard County Task Force on Transfer Tax. Distribution Formula Reformation to analyze and propose rebalancing the county transfer tax distribution; and generally relating to the Howard County Task Force on Transfer Tax Distribution Formula Reformation.



Department of Legislative Services  
**General Assembly of Maryland**  
**Dates of Interest**  
**2024 SESSION**  
 446th Session  
*(Preliminary)*

# MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY DATES

JANUARY						
	1 H	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 H	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 H	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- January 10** GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES (*noon, Wednesday*)
- 17** Final date for the Governor to introduce budget bill.
- 17** Final Date for the Governor to introduce capital budget bill.
- 19** *10th Day* – Final date for submission of Executive Orders reorganizing the Executive Branch of State Government; either Chamber may disapprove by resolution within 50 days.
- 19** *10th Day* – **SENATE AND HOUSE BILL REQUEST GUARANTEE DATE**
- 22** *13th Day* – Administration bills introduced in the Senate after this date referred to Senate Rules Committee
- TBD** Governor delivers State of the State Address
  
- February 5** *27th Day* – **SENATE BILL INTRODUCTION DATE**  
Senate bills introduced after this date referred to the Senate Rules Committee
- 8** In order to meet the bill introduction date, House bills must be filed with the Chief Clerk’s office by 5:00 P.M.
- 9** *31st Day* – **HOUSE BILL INTRODUCTION DATE**  
House bills introduced after this date referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee
- 18** *40th Day* – “Green Bag” appointments submitted by Governor (*Delivered on Friday, February 16*)
  
- March 4** *55th Day* – Final date for introduction of bills without suspension of Rules
- 12** *63rd Day* – Committee Reporting Courtesy Date  
Each Chamber’s committees to report their own bills by this date.
- 18** *69th Day* – Opposite Chamber Bill Crossover Date  
Each Chamber to send to other Chamber those bills it intends to pass favorably.  
Opposite Chamber bills received after this date subject to referral to Rules Committees (Senate Rule 32(c), House Courtesy Date)
  
- April 1** *83rd Day* – Budget bill to be passed by both Chambers.
- 8** *90th Day* – **ADJOURNMENT “SINE DIE” (Monday)**
  
- May 8** Final date for an extended session (*Wednesday*)
- 14** Maryland Presidential Primary Election

**POST-SESSION**

- April 28** 20th Day after adjournment — Final date for presentment of bills to the Governor
- May 28** 30th Day after presentment — Governor to sign/veto bills by this date.
- June 1** Other than emergency bills and as otherwise provided, earliest date for bills to take effect.
- July 1** Budgetary, tax, and revenue bills to take effect.
- October 1** Usual effective date for bills





# MARCH 2024

**GENERAL PLAN UPDATE WAS PASSED BY COUNCIL & EXECUTIVE NOT INCLUDING GATEWAY PLAN.**

***Gateway Committee formed without Education Representation***

**<https://www.hocobydesign.com/>**

**NOW COMES MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION.**

**APFO SCHOOL CHARTS AND HOUSING UNIT**

**ALLOCATIONS ALREADY PASSED OUT OF CYCLE.**

**SAAC MEETING REVEALED COUNTY UNSURE**

**WHAT TO DO WITH MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS**

***THAT ARE ALREADY EXEMPTED FROM APFO.***

**COMPREHENSIVE REZONING IS IMMINENT.**

**DATES OF SESSIONS UNANNOUNCED**

**\*SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTS RATES OF**

**GROWTH, REVENUE & EXPENSES**

**\*ALL CURRENT PROJECTIONS ARE**

**BASED OFF OF THE *PRIOR* GENERAL PLAN**

**\*ADJUSTMENTS TO BOTH CAPITAL AND**

**OPERATING WILL BE NEEDED**

**FUTURE TRENDS**  
Decreases in Enrollment and Birth Rates

Other noteworthy trends impacting future school capacity include decreasing enrollment post the Covid-19 pandemic and decreases in the national birth rates.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the number of births nationwide has been declining since 2008, which is also impacting kindergarten enrollment and will impact future enrollment growth in Howard County. Annual live birth counts from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene have been declining since 2016, with an 11% overall decrease since 2016. The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) realizable birth projections for each county in five-year increments. The 2023 MDP birth projection included this recent historical data, leading to a declining birth projection for the County.

Enrollment has declined since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, as some parents shifted their children to private school or homeschool, while some delayed kindergarten enrollment. Table 8-4 from the HCPSS 2022 Feasibility Study illustrates those decreases between 2019 and 2021.

The 2022-2023 school year official enrollment count (September 30, 2022) official enrollment showed an increase to 52,876 students, the first increase over 2019 enrollment levels, while annual enrollment is projected to increase in the future, the percent of increase may continue to be below recent historical trends given declining birth rates and other pandemic-related enrollment trends and the recent decline in enrollment.

Graph 8-1: Howard County Public School System Enrollments 2010 to 2022 (Official Sept. 30 count)

Student Group	Count
2019 Total Enrollment	57,338
2019 New Students	6,891
2020 Total Enrollment	56,130
2020 New Students	5,279
2021 Total Enrollment	54,988
2021 New Students	4,643
2021 Existing Students	54,004
2022 Total Enrollment	52,876

**Smaller Housing Typologies**

To meet the growing demand for housing within our limited remaining land area, housing types will need to shift. HOCO By Design emphasizes accommodating future growth within mixed-use activity centers, missing middle housing, and accessory dwelling units-all of which consist of smaller housing typologies than traditional single-family detached homes. For example, new apartment units in Downtown Columbia, many of which are studio and 1-bedroom units, are expected to account for close to 20% of all new housing units built in the County between 2023 and 2040. Based on the official September 30, 2022 enrollment data, there are only 41 students living in 1,199 new housing units per unit, which is less than 3% of the yield rate for a typical new single-family detached home (14% of new single-family detached yields and 20% of new townhome yields).

The HOCO By Design Future Land Use Map (FLUM) is based on a housing projection model that estimates about 57% will be single and condominium apartments, 24% townhomes, and 19% single-family detached units. This projection compares to 38% single and condominium apartments, 29% townhomes, and 33% single-family detached units built in the last 20 years. It is expected that this change in unit type mix into the future will yield relatively fewer new students compared to the last 20 years.

Planning Area	Students per Single-Family Detached Unit	Students per Single-Family Attached Unit	Students per Apartment Unit
Columbia	0.1248	0.2171	0.0448
Ellicott	0.0311	0.3613	0.1347
Ellicott City	0.0390	0.6480	NA
Purcell West	0.7668	NA	NA
Southwest	0.5822	0.2333	0.1022
Countywide Average	0.7155	0.3928	0.1028

Source: Howard County Public School System, Office of School Planning, October 2022

PS-10 - Quarter 6 Public School Facilities PS-11

HOCO BY DESIGN 2023 COUNCIL DRAFT

# **MARCH 2024**

## **APFO COMMITTEE STATUS**

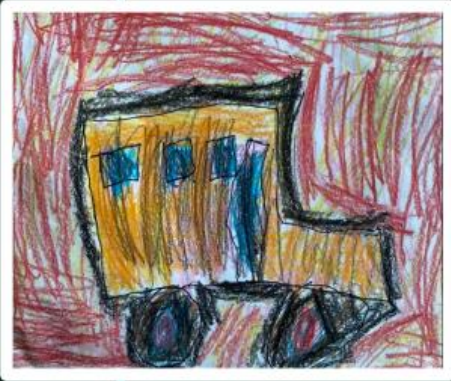
**Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance Committee required to convene within 1 year of General Plan update (Oct 2024). APFO determines the “acceptable” level of intentional school overcrowding**

**PTACHC has sent a letter of interest to participate. No Response So Far.**

## **APFO START DATE STILL UNDETERMINED**

**\*DPZ claims delays are due to concurrent planning of Gateway, Comprehensive Rezoning and APFO. DPZ is seeking a national “APFO EXPERT” that will guide the county policy. Experience and qualifications are TBD.** (source - hclwv forum)

**PTACHC IS CONTINUING TO MONITOR THE STATE ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT TASK FORCE - <https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/OurWork/ADUTF/ADU.aspx>**



# Policy 5200 Review Committee is Complete: Summarized Recommendations

- Due to current software restrictions, all walk distances will continue to be calculated property line to property line.
- Because this procedure omits the distance from the school property line to the school door and the distance from apartment complex doors to the apartment complex's property line, decreased property-line to property-line distance was recommended specifically at the elementary school level. Otherwise mileage used in the 2022-23 school year was recommended.
- Mileage is recommended as follows:
  - PreK to Grade 5: 0.75 miles
  - Grade 6-8: 1.0 mile
  - Grade 9-12: 1.5 mile
- Implementation Procedure: The Office of Student Transportation may extend the above mileages up to 0.1 mile for elementary school students and up to 0.15 miles for middle and high school students.
  - PLEASE NOTE: Home addresses that were part of the new non-transportation zones announced in March 2023 that were given school bus service back due to demarcation line changes may have school bus service taken away again if the implementation procedure is approved but the mileage changes are not.



## Policy 5200 Review Committee Updates on Student Transportation

- YOU can share opinions at any point by e-mailing [BOE@hcpss.org](mailto:BOE@hcpss.org)
- Regardless of what the committee decided, HCPSS can present a policy of their choice for review to the Board of Education
- HCPSS will report on their recommendations to the Board of Education on April 11<sup>th</sup>
- YOU can speak in person or virtually at the public hearing on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>
- The Board will vote on revised policy on June 6<sup>th</sup>
- Questions or comments? E-mail [Corinne.happel@ptachc.org](mailto:Corinne.happel@ptachc.org)

## How To Advocate For the HCPSS Budget

Access information about the budget here: [FY2025 HCPSS Operating Budget Process](#)

The budget report can be accessed here: [Superintendent's Proposed FY 2025 Operating Budget](#)

To advocate for increasing the amount of money the school system receives, letters should be directed to several different groups. The Board of Education needs to know that they should advocate for more money. The County Executive should be encouraged to provide the school system with more revenue. Our state officials need to be encouraged to fund the initiatives they are requiring with the Blueprint for Education.

### At the board level:

Advocate for the board to request what we need. To ask our county officials for the money that we need to continue to be a world class school system.

The board also needs to know what cuts you would like them to avoid. It is important to look through some of the proposed cuts and let them know why you think some of the proposed cuts should not be made.

Below is a list of some of the things proposed to be cut (a full list of proposed cuts and possible impacts can be found in the Budget book which is linked above)

- Change in class size ratios, increasing class sizes by 2
- Elimination of grade 6 team building activities (what used to be Outdoor Education but became the field trip to Robinson Nature center)
- Elementary Gifted and Talented seminars and Curriculum Extension Units (CEUs)
- Elimination of 3rd grade strings
- Curricular field trips (kindergarten trips to the library)
- High School Science paraeducators
- Reduction in HS Media Specialists
- Elimination of BSAP and GT Summer Institutes
- Reduction of College/Career transportation- bus services may not be offered to students taking classes at HCC
- Support for the MESA program
- Elimination of personal aids for students receiving special education services
- Several support positions in special education that provide training and consultation
- 15 custodial positions
- Elimination of the transportation analyst
- Elimination of 1.00 Security Investigator and 1.00 Security Assistant
- 13 building maintenance positions
- 13 ground maintenance positions

### How to provide testimony via email:

- Send email testimony to [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org)
- Emails become public testimony. Do not include anything in your email that you do not want released publicly. Some people will write their testimony in a separate document and attach it to the email.

Emails do not need to be overly complicated. Just let them know what you feel and why you feel this way. Here is a sample letter:

Dear Board of Education members:

I am writing because I believe it is important that the Board of Education ask the County Executive for the money needed to maintain our current level of services and comply with the new Blueprint mandates. If we want to continue to have one of the country's best school systems we need to make it a priority.

I am also writing to implore you not to cut [insert funding]. [Add a few sentences about why you think this should be preserved.

### How to provide testimony in person:

To testify in person you can pre-register in advance by telephone (410-313-1584) or by completing a google form. The sign up is usually released three weeks in advance and closes at 4:30 on the last working day prior to the meeting. The hearings on 2/15 and 2/26 have reached capacity. If additional hearings are scheduled, the date will be added here. The board typically asks students who are present to testify first. When you testify, you have 3 minutes to speak. This is about 1 page of single-spaced text. It is recommended you bring several copies of your testimony with you.

### How to provide feedback on the budget:

Additional you can provide general feedback to the Board of Education at [budgetfeedback@hcpss.org](mailto:budgetfeedback@hcpss.org)

### At the county level:

At the county level you can request that the county increase the money being allocated to Howard County Public Schools. Let them know more money is needed to avoid cutting necessary services.

Relevant County Officials:

Calvin Ball	Liz Walsh
David Yungman	Opel Jones
Deb Jung	Christina Rigby

### How to advocate to the County Executive to fully fund the schools' requests:

- Send your emails to [executive@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:executive@howardcountymd.gov)
- Emails become public testimony. Do not include anything in your email that you do not want released publicly. Some people will write their testimony in a separate document and attach it to the email.

Emails do not need to be overly complicated. Just let them know what you feel and why you feel this way. Here is a sample letter:

Dear Dr. Ball:

I am writing to encourage you to increase the money provided to the Howard County Public school system so that cuts in current levels of services do not need to be made. [Then give your reasons].

### How to advocate to the County Council to fully fund the schools' requests:

- Send your emails to [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov)
- Emails become public testimony. Do not include anything in your email that you do not want released publicly. Some people will write their testimony in a separate document and attach it to the email.

Emails do not need to be overly complicated. Just let them know what you feel and why you feel this way. Here is a sample letter:

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to encourage you to work with the Howard County Public School System to adequately fund our schools. This year millions of dollars in cuts have been proposed that will greatly impact our school system. It is important.....

**At the State Level:**

Many of the increases in the HCPSS budget are due to Blueprint mandates. Write to our delegation and the governor ask the state to increase the funding for schools so we can afford the new initiatives. Let them know that without additional state funding positions and services critical to the operation of our schools and education of our students will be cut. Send your emails to the following people:

Katie Fry Hester - [katiefry.hester@senate.state.md.us](mailto:katiefry.hester@senate.state.md.us)

Clarence Lam - [clarence.lam@senate.state.md.us](mailto:clarence.lam@senate.state.md.us)

Guy Guzzone - [guy.guzzone@senate.state.md.us](mailto:guy.guzzone@senate.state.md.us)

Chao Wu - [chao.wu@house.state.md.us](mailto:chao.wu@house.state.md.us)

Natalie Ziegler - [natalie.ziegler@house.state.md.us](mailto:natalie.ziegler@house.state.md.us)

Courtney Watson - [courtney.watson@house.state.md.us](mailto:courtney.watson@house.state.md.us)

Pam Guzzone - [pam.guzzone@house.state.md.us](mailto:pam.guzzone@house.state.md.us)

Terri Hill - [terri.hill@house.state.md.us](mailto:terri.hill@house.state.md.us)

Jessica Feldmark - [jessica.feldmark@house.state.md.us](mailto:jessica.feldmark@house.state.md.us)

Vanessa Atterbeary - [vanessa.atterbeary@house.state.md.us](mailto:vanessa.atterbeary@house.state.md.us)

Jen Terrasa - [jen.terrasa@house.state.md.us](mailto:jen.terrasa@house.state.md.us)

Governor Wes Moore - <https://governor.maryland.gov/contact-the-governor/>

Here is a sample letter:

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to you in response to the millions of dollars in proposed cuts to the Howard County Public School system budget. These cuts will severely impact our schools. Many of the cuts we are facing are due to the mandates in the Blueprint for Education. Although these mandates will bring many wonderful things to our system local county governments cannot afford to implement these positive changes without cutting important services. I implore you, our state officials, to provide more funding to the county school systems so that the Blueprint ideals can be achieved without sacrificing our current system.