

PTACHC Legislative Update – MAY 6, 2024



MAY 6 2024

MAY 1 10AM – COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION CIP and OPERATING

MAY 2 7PM – HCPSS BOE PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

MAY 3 10AM – COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION #2 OPERATING BUDGET

MAY 6 7PM – COUNTY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE SESSION – GEORGE HOWARD BUILDING

MAY 7 1PM to 5PM – HCPSS BOE BUDGET WORK SESSION (Canceled)

MAY 8 10AM – COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION#3 OPERATING BUDGET

MAY 9 4PM to 10PM – HCPSS BOE MEETING

MAY 9 9:30AM COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING ON GENERAL BUDGET

MAY 13 10AM – COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION #4 OPERATING BUDGET

MAY 13 1PM – HCPSS BOE BUDGET WORK SESSION (IF NEEDED)

MAY 13 7PM – COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING OPERATING BUDGET – GEORGE HOWARD BUILDING

MAY 15 10AM – COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION #5

MAY 16 7PM – HCPSS BOE PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING – FY25 CAPITAL and OPERATING – GEORGE HOWARD

MAY 17 10AM – COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION #6

MAY 20 4PM COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPERTY TAX – GEORGE HOWARD BUILDING

MAY 20 7PM COUNTY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC HEARING (ON NEW BILLS)

MAY 22 NOON COUNTY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MAY 23 4PM to 10PM – HCPSS BOE ADOPTS FINAL BUDGET

MAY 27 MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 28 930AM – COUNTY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE WORK SESSION

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 Employees	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								

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


MAY 2024


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


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.

 Spring 2024


Public Hearing
 May 2, 2024, 7 p.m.
[Details and register to testify](#)

Work Session (If Needed)
 May 13, 2024, 1 p.m.

Public Hearing
 May 16, 2024, 7 p.m.
[Details and register to testify](#)

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.

MAY 2024

Howard County Council Legislation – *The Bills & Resolutions That Affect HCPSS*

<https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/legislation>

Introduced May 6, Public hearing May 20, Earliest legislation vote May 22, next legislative session on June 3

CR43-2024

- Transfer \$3.9M from FY24 Education fund to student transportation from other education categories
- Approve \$4.9M appropriation of Fund Balance transfers

CR44-2024

- Approve \$4.3M appropriation from HCPSS operating budget to Food and Nutrition Service Fund

CR45-2024

- FY26 and 2026-2030 HCPSS Capital budget

CR48-2024

- FY 2025 HCPSS Operating Budget

NET REVENUE RELATED – (Underestimated, inaccurate or subsidized fees amount to *net drain* to meet education needs)

- CR50 – Water/Sewer/Trash FEES, CR51-DPW FEES, CR52 –DLIP FEES, CR53-DPZ FEES, CR54 Police FEES,
CR55 – Traffic FEES, CR56-Judicial FEES, CR-57 - Watershed FEES, CR58 - Health Dept FEES, CR59 - Fire inspection FEES,
CR60 – Dept of Finance fees, CR61 - EMS FEES, CR62 - AMUSEMENT FEE (“MERRIWEATHER FEES”), CR63 - Building Excise Tax
• (“APFO ROAD TAX”), CR64 - FIRE PROPERTY TAX, CR65 – PROPERTY TAX, CR66 – Fee-in-lieu Moderate Income Housing tax,
• CR67 Transfer Tax (Note – this fund has dedicated percentage appropriations to school site purchasing),
• CR68 Recordation tax

CB27-2024 – FY 2025 ANNUAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET FOR HOWARD COUNTY “The whole ball of wax”

CB28-2024 – ADD \$38.5M IN COUNTY BOND DEBT TO PAY FOR CAPITAL EXPENSES, CB29 -ADD \$60.8M to pay Water and Sewer projects, CB30 – ADD \$6.4M to pay Road maintenance, CB31 ADD \$7.4M for watershed projects, ADD \$3.5M to pay General Projects, ADD \$127.5M for capital projects, CB34 ADD \$3.0M for environmental projects.



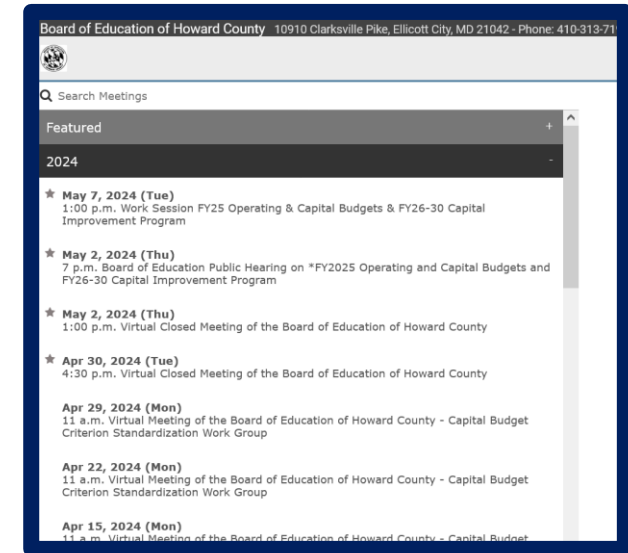


COMING SOON

**PTACHC CONGRESSIONAL
CANDIDATE FORUM
Watch for details**

Maryland General Assembly

HCPSS BoardDocs down?

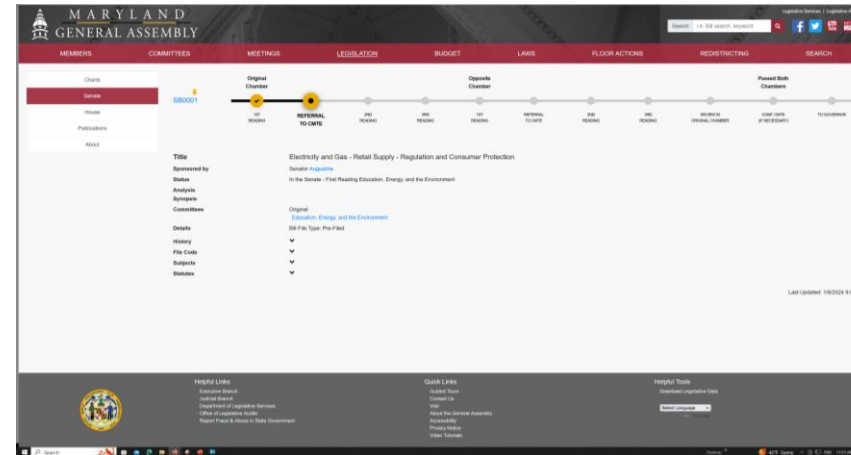


Video of HCPSS state legislative wrap up is online

NOTE – HCPSS positions may not reflect PTACHC positions

April 25th 2024

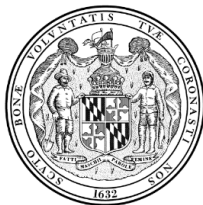
<https://hcpsstv.v3.swagit.com/videos/303784>



Maryland General Assembly

Final wrap-up with Governor Signings
NOTE – Multiple dates of enactment

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



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

MAY 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 THE CYCLE.

SAAC MEETING REVEALED COUNTY UNSURE

WHAT TO DO WITH MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS

THAT ARE ALREADY EXEMPTED FROM APFO.

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, either 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 2023.

The 2022-2023 school year official enrollment count (September 30, 2023) official enrollment showed an increase to 57,876 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 behaviors. Trends and the recent decline in enrollment.

Table 8-4: HCPSS Enrollment Count, 2019 - 2021

Student Groups	Counts
2019 Total Enrollment	57,338
2020 New Students	6,130
2020 Existing Students	56,279
2020 Total Enrollment	6,389
2021 New Students	6,643
2021 Existing Students	56,004
2021 Total Enrollment	6,004

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

Table 8-5: Student Yields from New Units Built 2015-2019, All Grade Levels Combined

Planning Area	Students per Single-Family Detached Unit	Students per Single-Family Attached Unit	Students per Apartment Unit
Coltsville	0.7516	0.3417	0.0448
Elkridge	0.6811	0.3613	0.1347
Ellicott City	0.6590	0.6480	NA
Rural West	0.7664	NA	NA
Southwest	0.5822	0.2333	0.1002
Countywide Average	0.7155	0.3928	0.1020

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 the 1,189 new housing units built in the County and less than 1% 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.

Source: Howard County Public School System, Office of School Planning, Office of School Operations, and the HOCO BY Design.

HOCO BY DESIGN 2023 COUNCIL DRAFT

PS-10 - Chapter 8: Public School Facilities PS-10

MAY 2024

<https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/zoning-land-use/comprehensive-zoning>

COMPREHENSIVE REZONING IS IMMINENT.
DATES OF SESSIONS UNANNOUNCED
***SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTS RATES OF GROWTH, REVENUE & EXPENSES**
***2013 VERSION CONTAINED 151 AMENDMENTS**
***ALL CURRENT PROJECTIONS ARE BASED OFF OF THE *PRIOR* GENERAL PLAN**
***ADJUSTMENTS TO BOTH CAPITAL AND OPERATING WILL BE NEEDED**



* Some Amendment Numbers were intentionally skipped

**REVISED Preliminary Comprehensive Zoning:
Map Amendment Recommendations**

May 16, 2013

Amendment Number	Property Address	Acres	Current Zoning	Requested Zoning	DPZ Notes	DPZ Recommends	Planning Board Recommends	Planning Board Notes
2.001	17530 FREDERICK RD	0.92	RC-DEO	B-1	Longstanding small business adjoins M-1.	B-1	B-1	S-0
8.001	14196 FREDERICK RD	65.1	RC-DEO	I	Existing private school and religious retreat. The I district is not currently authorized outside the PSA, and has never been used. If the I district is determined preferable, text amendments are needed to clarify the conditions and process for P&Z approval. If this district is not approved, consider deleting the I district and removing the Institutional zoning overlay from the YMCA and Veterans Elementary School.	CCT	RC-DEO	Split vote 3-2 The 3 Board members that voted to keep the current zoning believed that the other two districts do not fit the property/use. They agreed that the Conditional Use process was appropriate and would give the public the opportunity to participate. The two Board members that voted for the I Zoning District thought that having it go through the Zoning Board process to get the district would work best. This would allow for public input and the decision would be up to elected officials. The language for the I District would have to be changed to allow it outside of the PSA.
10.002	2020 MARRIOTTSTVILLE RD	6.39	POR/ PEC	N/A	Split zoned, part of Waverly	PEC	PEC	S-0
14.001	2605 RT 97	11.06	RR-DEO	B-1	Sufficient retail zoning in the area. Transitional commercial or institutional use appropriate along MD97. Rezone western area of property adjoining 14.002, but retain RR on the remainder.	POR/RR	POR/RR	S-0
14.002	2669 RT 97	3.02	RR-DEO	B-1	Sufficient retail zoning in the area. Transitional commercial or institutional use appropriate.	POR	POR	S-0
15.001	12962 LIVESTOCK RD	4.5	POR	RC-DEO		RC-DEO	RC-DEO	S-0
15.002	12966 LIVESTOCK RD	4.53	POR	RC-DEO	Request for about 0.40 acres of this lot to be rezoned in exchange for an equivalent acreage. Rezoning of the other 2 parcels.	RC-DEO	RC-DEO	S-0
15.003	12980 LIVESTOCK RD	100.87	RC-DEO	POR		POR	POR	S-0
16.001	10611 BALTIMORE NATIONAL PIKE	15.805	RC-DEO	R-ED	New to PSA. Adjoins R-ED	R-ED	R-ED	S-0
16.002	2865 MARRIOTTSTVILLE RD	41.15	RR-DEO	N/A	New to PSA	R-ED	R-ED	4-0-1 Paul Yelder abstained

MAY 2024

APFO COMMITTEE STATUS

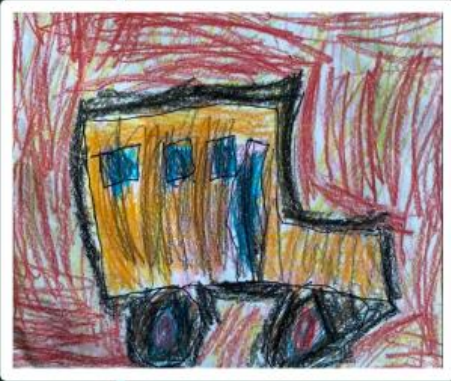
The Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance Committee is required to convene within 1 year of the General Plan update (Oct 2024). APFO determines the “acceptable” level of intentional school overcrowding

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
- 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 11th
- YOU can speak in person or virtually at the public hearing on Thursday, May 9th
- The Board will vote on revised policy on June 6th
- Questions or comments? E-mail 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
- 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

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
- 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
- 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

Clarence Lam - clarence.lam@senate.state.md.us

Guy Guzzone - guy.guzzone@senate.state.md.us

Chao Wu - chao.wu@house.state.md.us

Natalie Ziegler - natalie.ziegler@house.state.md.us

Courtney Watson - courtney.watson@house.state.md.us

Pam Guzzone - pam.guzzone@house.state.md.us

Terri Hill - terri.hill@house.state.md.us

Jessica Feldmark - jessica.feldmark@house.state.md.us

Vanessa Atterbeary - vanessa.atterbeary@house.state.md.us

Jen Terrasa - 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.