

# GAITHERSBURG CLUSTER

## CLUSTER PLANNING ISSUES

**Planning Issue:** Since 2007, elementary school enrollment in the Gaithersburg Cluster has increased by 820 students. Some of this growth is due to new housing planned for in the Shady Grove Sector Plan. In addition, development of the Crown community, with over 2,000 residential units planned in the Rosemont Elementary School service area, is moving forward. Elementary school enrollment growth continues in the Gaithersburg Cluster and several schools exceed program capacities—Gaithersburg, Rosemont, Strawberry Knoll, Summit Hall, and Washington Grove elementary schools. In the 2014–2015 school year, a Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School Capacity Study was conducted to determine whether additions to cluster schools could address the projected space deficits. Along with additions to existing schools, a new elementary school also was considered.

On October 15, 2015, the Findings of the Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School Capacity Study were released. The interim superintendent of schools concluded that challenges existed with both approaches—additions or a new school—including concerns regarding future enrollment, size of schools, and potential reassignment of students. As a result, the interim superintendent of schools recommended a Tri-Cluster Roundtable Discussion Group (Roundtable) for the Gaithersburg, Col. Zadok Magruder, and Thomas S. Wootton clusters. This roundtable reviewed school enrollments, utilization levels, and facility options at the three adjacent clusters to more broadly address enrollment growth and space deficits in the Gaithersburg Cluster.

On April 19, 2016, the Board of Education approved the following actions for the elementary schools in the Gaithersburg Cluster that stemmed from the Roundtable.

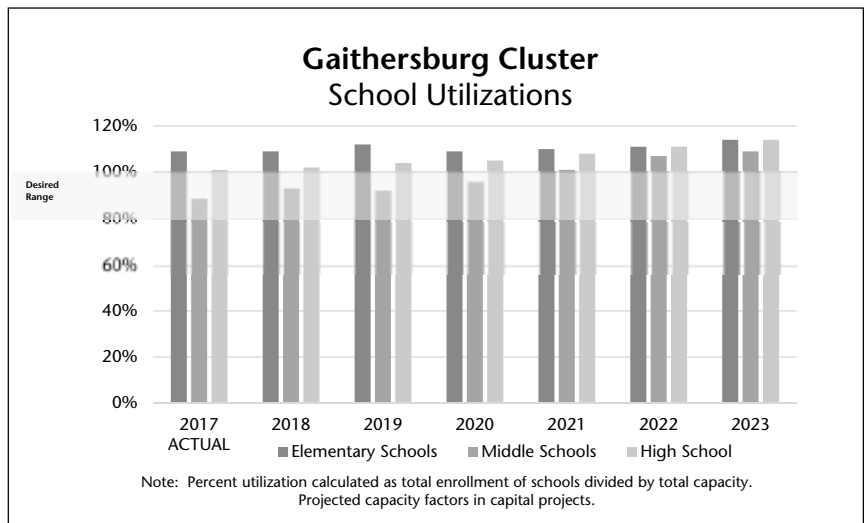
- Gaithersburg Elementary School—construct an addition at the school that would provide two schools in one—a Grades Pre-K–2 and a Grades 3–5—with physical separations where possible. A feasibility study was conducted in FY 2017 to determine the feasibility, scope, and cost for the addition with completion by September 2020.
- Rosemont Elementary School—monitor enrollment before any capital solutions or reassignments are considered. Only a four-classroom addition would be feasible at this school. Reassignment of the area west of Interstate 270 to Thomas S. Wootton Cluster schools was considered; however, the interim superintendent of schools’ did not support reassignment of additional students to the Thomas S. Wootton Cluster due to projected enrollment at Thomas S. Wootton High School.
- Strawberry Knoll Elementary School—monitor enrollment and consider an addition in a future Capital Improvements Program.

- Summit Hall Elementary School—the future revitalization/expansion would address the overutilization at the school. In the short-term, replace the six older relocatable classrooms with new units or modular classrooms.
- Washington Grove Elementary School—conduct a boundary study in spring 2017 to reassign the portion of the Shady Grove Sector Plan within the Gaithersburg Cluster service area to Col. Zadok Magruder Cluster schools.

The actions above were completed including the feasibility study for a possible addition at Gaithersburg Elementary School to increase the capacity for 1,000 students. The feasibility study revealed several challenges with construction, security, and administration of the building. Based on these challenges, as well as the absence of a recommendation to address the space deficits at Rosemont and Strawberry Knolls elementary schools, on August 31, 2017, the Board of Education authorized that a site selection committee be formed to evaluate potential school sites in the Gaithersburg Cluster. This potential school site could address the overutilization at the elementary schools in the cluster. The site selection process will occur in fall 2017 with Board of Education in March 2018.

**Planning Study:** A boundary study was conducted in fall 2016 for residents of the Unity area to consider a reassignment from the Gaithersburg Cluster schools to the Sherwood Cluster schools. Representatives from Laytonsville and Greenwood elementary schools, Gaithersburg and Rosa Parks middle schools, and Gaithersburg and Sherwood high schools participated in the boundary study. The Board of Education took action on March 30, 2017, to reassign the area from the Gaithersburg Cluster to the Sherwood Cluster. The Board of Education action is available on the MCPS website at the following link: <http://gis.mcpsmd.org/boundarystudypdfs/UnityBOEAdoptedBoundary.pdf>

**Planning Study:** A boundary study was conducted in spring 2017 to reassign the portion of the Shady Grove Sector Plan that is located east of Interstate 370 in the Washington Grove



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Elementary School, Forest Oak Middle School, and Gaithersburg High School service areas to the Col. Zadok Magruder Cluster schools. On August 31, 2017, the Board of Education authorized that a site selection committee be formed to evaluate potential school sites in the Gaithersburg Cluster. This potential school site could address the overutilization at the elementary schools in the cluster. The site selection process will occur in fall 2017, with Board of Education action in March 2018. The Boundary Advisory Committee Report for the Shady Grove Sector Plan boundary study was released on September 6, 2017. However, based on the approved site selection process, decisions regarding potential reassignments in the Shady Grove Sector Plan will not be considered until after the site selection process is complete.

### SCHOOLS

#### Gaithersburg High School

**Planning Study:** A boundary study was conducted in fall 2016 for residents of the Unity area to consider a reassignment from the Gaithersburg Cluster schools to the Sherwood Cluster schools. Representatives from Laytonsville and Greenwood elementary schools, Gaithersburg and Rosa Parks middle schools, and Gaithersburg and Sherwood high schools participated in the boundary study. The Board of Education took action on March 30, 2017, to reassign the area from the Gaithersburg Cluster to the Sherwood Cluster. The Board of Education action is available on the MCPS website at the following link: <http://gis.mcpsmd.org/boundarystudypdfs/UnityBOEAdoptedBoundary.pdf>

**Planning Study:** A boundary study was conducted in spring 2017 to reassign the portion of the Shady Grove Sector Plan that is located east of Interstate 370 in the Washington Grove Elementary School, Forest Oak Middle School, and Gaithersburg High School service areas to the Col. Zadok Magruder Cluster schools. On August 31, 2017, the Board of Education authorized that a site selection committee be formed to evaluate potential school sites in the Gaithersburg Cluster. This potential school site could address the overutilization at the elementary schools in the cluster. The site selection process will occur in fall 2017, with Board of Education action in March 2018. The Boundary Advisory Committee Report for the Shady Grove Sector Plan boundary study was released on September 6, 2017. However, based on the approved site selection process, decisions regarding potential reassignments in the Shady Grove Sector Plan will not be considered until after the site selection process is complete.

**Capital Project:** Projections indicate enrollment at Gaithersburg High School will exceed capacity by 200 seats or more by the end of the six-year planning period. Expenditures are recommended in the six-year period to open a new high school on the Crown Farm site to address overutilization in the mid-county region. An FY 2019 appropriation for planning is recommended to begin the architectural design for this new school. Once the planning is complete, a recommendation

will be included in the next full CIP regarding the phasing and completion date for the opening of this new high school.

#### Forest Oak Middle School

**Planning Study:** A boundary study was conducted in spring 2017 to reassign the portion of the Shady Grove Sector Plan that is located east of Interstate 370 in the Washington Grove Elementary School, Forest Oak Middle School, and Gaithersburg High School service areas to the Col. Zadok Magruder Cluster schools. On August 31, 2017, the Board of Education authorized that a site selection committee be formed to evaluate potential school sites in the Gaithersburg Cluster. This potential school site could address the overutilization at the elementary schools in the cluster. The site selection process will occur in fall 2017, with Board of Education action in March 2018. The Boundary Advisory Committee Report for the Shady Grove Sector Plan boundary study was released on September 6, 2017. However, based on the approved site selection process, decisions regarding potential reassignments in the Shady Grove Sector Plan will not be considered until after the site selection process is complete.

**Planning Study:** Projections indicate that enrollment is growing and will exceed capacity by 150 seats or more by the end of the six-year planning period. A capacity study is recommended to explore possible options to provide additional capacity at Forest Oak Middle School. Relocatable schools will be utilized as needed until a permanent solution is identified in a future CIP.

#### Gaithersburg Middle School

**Planning Study:** A boundary study was conducted in fall 2016 for residents of the Unity area to consider a reassignment from the Gaithersburg Cluster schools to the Sherwood Cluster schools. Representatives from Laytonsville and Greenwood elementary schools, Gaithersburg and Rosa Parks middle schools, and Gaithersburg and Sherwood high schools participated in the boundary study. The Board of Education took action on March 30, 2017, to reassign the area from the Gaithersburg Cluster to the Sherwood Cluster. The Board of Education action is available on the MCPS website at the following link: <http://gis.mcpsmd.org/boundarystudypdfs/UnityBOEAdoptedBoundary.pdf>

#### Gaithersburg Elementary School

**Capital Project:** Projections indicated that enrollment is growing and will exceed capacity by the end of the six-year planning period. An FY 2019 appropriation is recommended to construct the addition at this school. Prior to the design, a feasibility study was conducted for an addition to increase the capacity for 1,000 students, to include an option to construct an addition for a Pre-K–5 school and an option to construct an addition to create two schools in one adjoining building—Grades Pre-K–2 in one part of the facility and Grades 3–5 in the other part of the facility—with physical separation where possible. The scheduled completion date for the addition is

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September 2020. In order for this project to be completed on schedule, county and state funding must be provided at the levels recommended in this CIP.

**Planning Study:** The feasibility study revealed several challenges with construction, security, and administration of the building. Based on these challenges, as well as the absence of a recommendation to address the space deficits at Rosemont and Strawberry Knolls elementary schools following the Roundtable described in the Cluster Planning Issues, on August 31, 2017, the Board of Education authorized that a site selection committee be formed to evaluate potential school sites in the Gaithersburg Cluster. This potential school site could address the overutilization at the elementary schools in the cluster. The site selection process will occur in fall 2017 with Board of Education in March 2018.

### Laytonsville Elementary School

**Planning Study:** A boundary study was conducted in fall 2016 for residents of the Unity area to consider a reassignment from the Gaithersburg Cluster schools to the Sherwood Cluster schools. Representatives from Laytonsville and Greenwood elementary schools, Gaithersburg and Rosa Parks middle schools, and Gaithersburg and Sherwood high schools participated in the boundary study. The Board of Education took action on March 30, 2017, to reassign the area from the Gaithersburg Cluster to the Sherwood Cluster. The Board of Education action is available on the MCPS website at the following link: <http://gis.mcpsmd.org/boundarystudypdfs/UnityBOEAdoptedBoundary.pdf>

### Rosemont Elementary School

**Capital Project:** Enrollment projections for Rosemont Elementary School indicate that enrollment is growing and will exceed capacity by over 250 seats by the end of the six-year planning period. A feasibility study was conducted in the 2016–2017 school year to determine the feasibility, scope, and cost of an addition and core improvements at the school. Relocatable classrooms will be utilized until a solution to provide additional capacity is identified for the school.

**Planning Study:** Based on the absence of a recommendation to address the space deficits at Rosemont and Strawberry Knolls elementary schools following the Roundtable described in the Cluster Planning Issues, on August 31, 2017, the Board of Education authorized that a site selection committee be formed to evaluate potential school sites in the Gaithersburg Cluster. This potential school site could address the overutilization at the elementary schools in the cluster. The site selection process will occur in fall 2017 with Board of Education in March 2018.

The Board of Education authorized, on August 31, 2017, that a site selection committee be formed to evaluate potential elementary school sites in the Gaithersburg Cluster. This potential school site could address the overutilization at the

elementary schools in the cluster. The site selection process will occur in fall 2017, with Board of Education in March 2018.

### Strawberry Knoll Elementary School

**Capital Project:** Projections indicate enrollment is growing and will exceed capacity at Strawberry Knoll Elementary School by over 200 seats by the end of the six-year planning period. An FY 2012 appropriation was approved for facility planning to conduct a feasibility study to determine the scope and cost for an addition at the school. Relocatable classrooms will be utilized until a solution to provide additional capacity is identified for the school.

**Planning Study:** Based on the absence of a recommendation to address the space deficits at Rosemont and Strawberry Knolls elementary schools, on August 31, 2017 following the Roundtable described in the Cluster Planning Issues, the Board of Education authorized that a site selection committee be formed to evaluate potential school sites in the Gaithersburg Cluster. This potential school site could address the overutilization at the elementary schools in the cluster. The site selection process will occur in fall 2017 with Board of Education in March 2018.

### Summit Hall Elementary School

**Capital Project:** The Board of Education action directed staff to evaluate the older relocatable classrooms at Summit Hall Elementary School for replacement with newer relocatable classrooms, or modular classrooms, by fall 2017.

**Planning Study:** Projections indication that enrollment will exceed capacity by more than 200 seats by the end of the six-year planning period. The Gaithersburg Elementary School feasibility study revealed several challenges with construction, security, and administration of the building. Based on these challenges, as well as the absence of a recommendation to address the space deficits at Rosemont and Strawberry Knolls elementary schools following the Roundtable described in the Cluster Planning Issues, on August 31, 2017, the Board of Education authorized that a site selection committee be formed to evaluate potential school sites in the Gaithersburg Cluster. This potential school site could address the overutilization at the elementary schools in the cluster. The site selection process will occur in fall 2017 with Board of Education in March 2018.

**Capital Project:** Based on the Montgomery County Council Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) study of the revitalization/expansion program released in July 2015, this program is under review in order to develop a multi-variable approach to determine the priority order of large-scale renovations of facilities, possibly including programmatic and capacity considerations. Recommendations regarding possible changes to this program will be released once the review is complete.

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### Washington Grove Elementary School

**Planning Study:** A boundary study was conducted in spring 2017 to reassign the portion of the Shady Grove Sector Plan that is located east of Interstate 370 in the Washington Grove Elementary School, Forest Oak Middle School, and Gaithersburg High School service areas to the Col. Zadok Magruder Cluster schools. On August 31, 2017, the Board of Education authorized that a site selection committee be formed to evaluate potential school sites in the Gaithersburg Cluster. This potential school site could address the overutilization at the elementary schools in the cluster. The site selection process will occur in fall 2017, with Board of Education action in March 2018. The Boundary Advisory Committee Report for the Shady Grove Sector Plan boundary study was released on September 6, 2017. However, based on the approved site selection process, decisions regarding potential reassignments in the Shady Grove Sector Plan will not be considered until after the site selection process is complete.

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Gaithersburg ES	Classroom addition	Approved	Sept. 2020

\*Approved—Project has an FY 2017 or FY 2018 appropriation approved in the Amended FY 2017–2022 CIP.

\*Programmed—Project has expenditures programmed in a future year of the CIP for planning and/or construction funds.

\*Proposed—Project has facility planning funds recommended for a feasibility study.

\*Recommended—Project has an FY 2019 appropriation recommended for planning or construction in the FY 2019–2024 CIP.

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## Projected Enrollment and Space Availability Effects of the Recommended FY 2019–2024 CIP and Non–CIP Actions on Space Available

Schools		Actual 17–18	Projections							
			18–19	19–20	20–21	21–22	22–23	23–24	2027	2032
Gaithersburg HS	Program Capacity	2393	2393	2393	2393	2393	2393	2393	2393	2393
	Enrollment	2409	2439	2481	2505	2582	2649	2736	2950	3240
	Available Space	(16)	(46)	(88)	(112)	(189)	(256)	(343)	(557)	(847)
	Comments	See text								
Forest Oak MS	Program Capacity	949	949	949	949	949	949	949	949	949
	Enrollment	861	889	868	914	968	1089	1136	1340	1620
	Available Space	88	60	81	35	(19)	(140)	(187)	(391)	(671)
	Comments		Capacity Study							
Gaithersburg MS	Program Capacity	945	945	945	945	945	945	945	945	945
	Enrollment	831	864	866	895	950	939	937	1030	1120
	Available Space	114	81	79	50	(5)	6	8	(85)	(175)
	Comments									
Gaithersburg ES	Program Capacity	788	788	788	1000	1000	1000	1000		
	Enrollment	863	854	889	889	886	904	920		
	Available Space	(75)	(66)	(101)	111	114	96	80		
	Comments	Planning for Addition			Addition Complete					
Goshen ES	Program Capacity	589	589	589	589	589	589	589		
	Enrollment	624	623	628	611	612	617	603		
	Available Space	(35)	(34)	(39)	(22)	(23)	(28)	(14)		
	Comments									
Laytonsville ES	Program Capacity	449	449	449	449	449	449	449		
	Enrollment	377	362	341	329	309	302	320		
	Available Space	72	87	108	120	140	147	129		
	Comments									
Rosemont ES	Program Capacity	585	585	585	585	585	585	585		
	Enrollment	619	620	689	740	790	819	866		
	Available Space	(34)	(35)	(104)	(155)	(205)	(234)	(281)		
	Comments	See text								
Strawberry Knoll ES	Program Capacity	466	466	466	466	466	466	466		
	Enrollment	653	654	674	688	686	687	681		
	Available Space	(187)	(188)	(208)	(222)	(220)	(221)	(215)		
	Comments	See text								
Summit Hall ES	Program Capacity	438	438	438	438	438	438	438		
	Enrollment	668	677	649	661	656	655	659		
	Available Space	(230)	(239)	(211)	(223)	(218)	(217)	(221)		
	Comments	See text								
Washington Grove ES	Program Capacity	613	613	613	613	613	613	613		
	Enrollment	483	510	541	584	605	631	651		
	Available Space	130	103	72	29	8	(18)	(38)		
	Comments									
Cluster Information	HS Utilization	101%	102%	104%	105%	108%	111%	114%	123%	135%
	HS Enrollment	2409	2439	2481	2505	2582	2649	2736	2950	3240
	MS Utilization	89%	93%	92%	96%	101%	107%	109%	125%	145%
	MS Enrollment	1692	1753	1734	1809	1918	2028	2073	2370	2740
	ES Utilization	109%	109%	112%	109%	110%	111%	114%	114%	124%
	ES Enrollment	4287	4300	4411	4502	4544	4615	4700	4740	5150



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### Facility Characteristics of Schools 2017–2018

Schools	Year Facility Opened	Year Reopened/ Revitalized	Total Square Footage	Site Size Acres	Adjacent Park	Reloc-atable Classrooms	County Programs	Home School Model
Gaithersburg HS	1951	2013	427,048	41.07	Yes		SBWC	
Forest Oak MS	1999		132,259	41.2			LTL	
Gaithersburg MS	1960	1988	157,694	22.82			LTL	
Gaithersburg ES	1947		94,468	9.22		11	SBHC	Yes
Goshen ES	1988		76,740	10.5		2		Yes
Laytonsville ES	1951	1989	64,160	10.4		1		Yes
Rosemont ES	1965	1995	88,764	8.9		3	SBHC	Yes
Strawberry Knoll ES	1988		78,723	10.8	Yes	7		Yes
Summit Hall ES	1971		68,059	10.2	Yes	14	SBHC	Yes
Washington Grove ES	1956	1984	86,266	10.7			SBHC	Yes