

# 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.

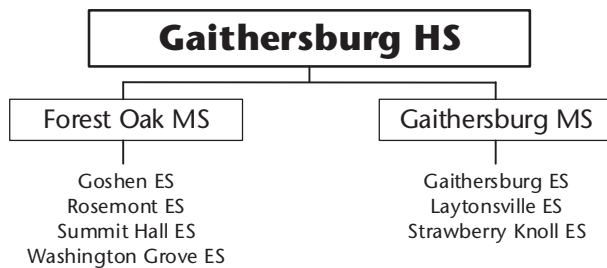
On October 15, 2015, the Findings of the Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School Capacity Study were released. The interim superintendent of schools concluded that challenges existed with both approaches—additions or a new school—including concerns regarding future enrollment, size of schools, and potential 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.

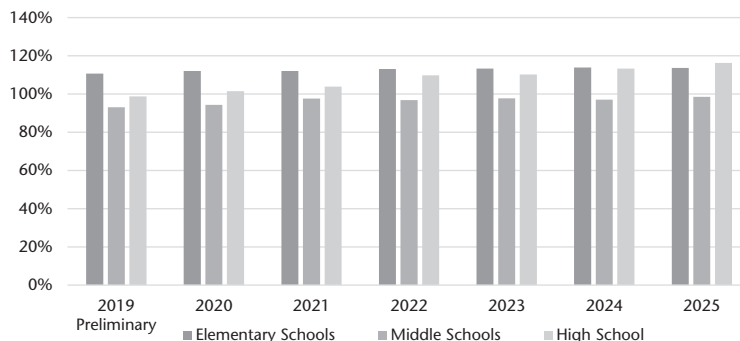
The actions above were completed including the feasibility study for a possible addition at Gaithersburg Elementary School to increase the capacity for 1,000 students. The feasibility study revealed several challenges with construction, security, and administration of the building. Based on these challenges, 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 a site selection committee to evaluate potential school sites in the Gaithersburg Cluster.

### Gaithersburg Cluster Articulation\*



\* "Cluster" is defined as the collection of elementary schools that articulate to the same high school.

### Gaithersburg Cluster School Utilizations



Note: Percent utilization calculated as total enrollment of schools divided by total capacity. Projected capacity factors in capital projects. Desired utilization range is between 80% - 100%

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**Capital Project:** Based on the work of the site selection committee, the superintendent of schools recommended and the Board of Education approved the opening of a new elementary school in the Gaithersburg Cluster on the Kelley Park site. The new school is scheduled to open in September 2022. An FY 2019 appropriation was approved to begin the architectural design and planning for Gaithersburg Elementary School #8. An FY 2021 appropriation is recommended for construction funding. In order for this project to be completed on time, county and state funding must be provided at the levels recommended in this CIP.

**Planning Study:** A boundary study is recommended for Gaithersburg Elementary School #8 to create the service area for the new school. The anticipated scope of the boundary study will include all of the elementary schools as well as the two middle schools in the Gaithersburg Cluster in order to review middle school articulation patterns. The Board of Education will take action on the scope of the boundary study in November 26, 2019. The boundary study will begin spring 2020 with Board of Education action scheduled for March 2021.

### SCHOOLS

#### Gaithersburg High School

**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 programmed in the six-year period to open a new high school on the Crown Farm site to address overutilization in the mid-county region. Although an FY 2019 appropriation for planning was recommended by the Board of Education for this new school, the County Council delayed the funds by one year to begin in FY 2020. An FY 2020 appropriation was approved for planning to begin the architectural design for the project. Based on the expenditures shown in the recommended CIP, the new school is scheduled to open September 2025. An appropriation will be recommended in the next full CIP for construction funding. In order for this project to be completed on time, county and state funding must be provided at the levels recommended in this CIP.

#### Gaithersburg Elementary School

**Planning Issue and Capital Project:** See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

#### Gaithersburg Elementary School #8

**Planning Issue and Capital Project:** See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

#### Goshen Elementary School

**Planning Issue and Capital Project:** See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

#### Laytonsville Elementary School

**Planning Issue and Capital Project:** See text under Cluster Planning Issues

#### Rosemont Elementary School

**Planning Issue and Capital Project:** See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

#### Strawberry Knoll Elementary School

**Planning Issue and Capital Project:** See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

#### Summit Hall Elementary School

**Planning Issue and Capital Project:** See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

#### Washington Grove Elementary School

**Planning Issue and Capital Project:** See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Crown HS	New School	Programmed	Sept. 2025
Gaithersburg ES #8	New School	Recommended	Sept. 2022

\*“Approved”—Project has an FY 2019 or FY 2020 appropriation for planning or construction funds approved in the Amended FY 2019–2024 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 approved for a feasibility study.

\*“Recommended”—Project has an FY 2021 appropriation recommended for planning or construction in the FY 2021–2026 CIP.

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## Projected Enrollment and Space Availability

Effects of the Recommended FY 2021 Capital Budget and the FY 2021–2026 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

Schools		Prelimin. 19–20	Projections							
			20–21	21–22	22–23	23–24	24–25	25–26	2029	2034
Gaithersburg HS	Program Capacity	2443	2443	2443	2443	2443	2443	2443	2443	2443
	Enrollment	2412	2479	2537	2682	2692	2768	2840	2864	3000
	Available Space	31	(36)	(94)	(239)	(249)	(325)	(397)	(421)	(557)
	Comments	See Text								
Crown HS	Program Capacity							2700	2700	2700
	Enrollment							0	0	0
	Available Space							2700	2700	2700
	Comments							Opens		
Forest Oak MS	Program Capacity	955	955	955	955	955	955	955	955	955
	Enrollment	950	954	981	975	989	971	976	990	1014
	Available Space	5	1	(26)	(20)	(34)	(16)	(21)	(35)	(59)
	Comments									
Gaithersburg MS	Program Capacity	1009	1009	1009	1009	1009	1009	1009	1009	1009
	Enrollment	877	897	935	927	931	934	959	950	975
	Available Space	132	112	74	82	78	75	50	59	34
	Comments									
Gaithersburg ES	Program Capacity	737	737	737	737	737	737	737		
	Enrollment	866	869	878	890	887	884	883		
	Available Space	(129)	(132)	(141)	(153)	(150)	(147)	(146)		
	Comments	Boundary Study								
Gaithersburg ES #8	Program Capacity				740	740	740	740		
	Enrollment				0	0	0	0		
	Available Space				740	740	740	740		
	Comments	Planning for new school			Opens					
Goshen ES	Program Capacity	594	594	594	594	594	594	594		
	Enrollment	571	549	536	540	541	548	561		
	Available Space	23	45	58	54	53	46	33		
	Comments	Boundary Study								
Laytonsville ES	Program Capacity	447	447	447	447	447	447	447		
	Enrollment	392	400	403	420	438	432	421		
	Available Space	55	47	44	27	9	15	26		
	Comments	Boundary Study								
Rosemont ES	Program Capacity	568	568	568	568	568	568	568		
	Enrollment	647	654	662	662	674	675	671		
	Available Space	(79)	(86)	(94)	(94)	(106)	(107)	(103)		
	Comments	Boundary Study								
Strawberry Knoll ES	Program Capacity	459	459	459	459	459	459	459		
	Enrollment	651	668	666	667	665	676	682		
	Available Space	(192)	(209)	(207)	(208)	(206)	(217)	(223)		
	Comments	Boundary Study								
Summit Hall ES	Program Capacity	457	457	457	457	457	457	457		
	Enrollment	702	729	726	732	721	723	704		
	Available Space	(245)	(272)	(269)	(275)	(264)	(266)	(247)		
	Comments	Boundary Study								
Washington Grove ES	Program Capacity	613	613	613	613	613	613	613		
	Enrollment	462	474	471	472	467	477	482		
	Available Space	151	139	142	141	146	136	131		
	Comments	Boundary Study								
Cluster Information	HS Utilization	99%	101%	104%	110%	110%	113%	116%	117%	123%
	HS Enrollment	2412	2479	2537	2682	2692	2768	2840	2864	3000
	MS Utilization	93%	94%	98%	97%	98%	97%	99%	99%	101%
	MS Enrollment	1827	1851	1916	1902	1920	1905	1935	1940	1989
	ES Utilization	111%	112%	112%	113%	95%	96%	95%	102%	110%
	ES Enrollment	4291	4343	4342	4383	4393	4415	4404	4740	5150

# GAITHERSBURG CLUSTER

## Demographic Characteristics of Schools

Schools	2019–2020						2018–2019		
	Total Enrollment	Two or more races %	Black or Afr. Amer. %	Asian%	Hispanic %	White %	FARMS%*	ESOL%**	Mobility Rate%***
Gaithersburg HS	2412	3.0%	21.8%	6.8%	55.6%	12.7%	43.6%	23.5%	19.0%
Forest Oak MS	950	2.7%	24.0%	5.5%	57.6%	10.0%	56.5%	17.7%	17.9%
Gaithersburg MS	877	5.7%	20.5%	7.1%	51.7%	14.9%	48.2%	18.5%	14.7%
Laytonsville ES	392	8.2%	16.3%	7.7%	24.2%	43.4%	16.4%	10.4%	8.3%
Gaithersburg ES	866	1.4%	14.7%	1.8%	79.1%	2.9%	85.8%	53.6%	28.1%
Goshen ES	571	4.2%	21.9%	12.1%	42.9%	18.9%	43.8%	24.2%	14.5%
Rosemont ES	647	5.7%	30.0%	9.1%	46.8%	8.2%	53.7%	44.3%	24.4%
Strawberry Knoll ES	651	6.1%	25.8%	11.2%	43.6%	12.9%	41.6%	22.0%	14.2%
Summit Hall ES	702	1.9%	17.9%	3.0%	74.5%	2.6%	79.6%	57.6%	20.7%
Washington Grove ES	462	2.8%	20.6%	5.2%	63.2%	8.0%	72.3%	51.2%	13.3%
<b>Elementary Cluster Total</b>	<b>4291</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>21.0%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>56.6%</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>59.8%</b>	<b>39.9%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>
<b>Elementary County Total</b>	<b>76541</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>21.3%</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>33.9%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>	<b>38.3%</b>	<b>25.6%</b>	<b>13.4%</b>

\*Percent of students approved for Free and Reduced-priced Meals Program (FARMS) during the 2018–2019 school year.

\*\*Percent of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) during the 2018–2019 school year. High School students are served in regional ESOL centers.

\*\*\*Mobility Rate is the number of entries plus withdrawals during the 2018–2019 school year compared to total enrollment.

Notes: Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaskan Native categories total less than 1% and were therefore excluded from the table.

Due to federal and state guidelines, demographic characteristics of schools of less than or equal to 5 students per category are reported as 0%.

### Program Capacity Table

(School Year 2019–2020)

Schools	Special Education Services																																			
	Grades Served	Capacity (HS @90% MS@85%)	Total Rooms	Support Rooms	Regular Secondary @25	Regular Elementary @23	CSR Grades 1–2 @18	Pre-K @20	Pre-K @40	HS @20	CSR KIND @18	KIND @22	ESOL @15	METS @15	HSM @13	ELEM LAD @13	ELC @10	LANG @12	LFI @10	SCB @6	AAC@7	AUT @6	BRIDGE @10	DHOH @7	SESS @10	EXTENSIONS @6	GT/LD @13	PD @7	PEP@6	PEP @12	PEP @18	VISION (Elementary) @7	OTHER			
																																		School Based	Cluster Based	Quad Cluster Based
Gaithersburg HS	9-12	2443	122		97								7	4					3	4																
Forest Oak MS	6-8	955	48		43							2								3																
Gaithersburg MS	6-8	1009	52		44							2	1										2	3												
Gaithersburg ES	PreK-5	737	44	6		11	14	1		10													2													
Goshen ES	K-5	594	34	4		13	10			5				1			1																			
Laytonsville ES	K-5	447	27	4		14					4			1						4																
Rosemont ES	PreK-5	568	36	4		7	12	1		6				1								5														
Strawberry Knoll ES	HS-5	459	32	4		2	10	1		1	6			1									3								1	1	2			
Summit Hall ES	HS-5	457	28	5			12	1	2	1	6			1																						
Washington Grove ES	HS-5	613	34	4		10	8	2	1	4				1																	1	1	2			

## GAITHERSBURG CLUSTER

### Facility Characteristics of Schools 2019–2020

Schools	Year Facility Opened	Year Reopened/ Revitalized	Total Square Footage	Site Size Acres	Adjacent Park	Reloc-atable Classrooms	County Programs
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	1983	94,468	9.22		12	SBHC
Goshen ES	1988		76,740	10.5		2	
Laytonsville ES	1951	1989	64,160	10.4			
Rosemont ES	1965	1995	88,764	8.9		4	LTL
Strawberry Knoll ES	1988		78,723	10.8	Yes	10	
Summit Hall ES	1971		68,059	10.2	Yes	17	SBHC
Washington Grove ES	1956	1984	86,266	10.7			LTL

