

OTHER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Montgomery County Public Schools operates a program that supports students in Grades 6–12. The program is intended to support students who have been unsuccessful in their home schools for a variety of reasons. These reasons include behavior and/or attendance problems, as well as involvement in a serious disciplinary action that warrants a recommendation for expulsion and placement by the Office of the Chief Operating Officer in lieu of expulsion. AEP strives to provide positive and effective educational supports and services that address the academic, social, emotional, and physical health of adolescents.

In addition, the AEP provides a 45-day Interim Placement Program that serves students in Grades 6–12 receiving special education services. Students are placed in the program after a central office review and as a result of their involvement with controlled substances, serious bodily injury, and/or weapons. Students remain enrolled in their home school and the home school provides daily assignments and assessments.

In 2013, the superintendent of schools initiated a district-wide redesign of the Alternative Education Program (AEP). The focus of the redesign has been to provide academic, social emotional supports, and interventions to meet the individual needs of students. The redesign is intended to ensure that academic performance is not predicted by race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. An AEP redesign committee comprised of central services and alternative education staff worked collaboratively to implement a three-year phase plan. In February 2014, the Board of Education approved the redesign plan for the AEP.

The three major components of the redesign plan focus on:

- Pathways for Learning with a focus on Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Personalized Learning Plans
- Social Emotional Learning

As the redesign enters the fourth year, MCPS continues to expand upon the three major components of the redesign. Personalized learning plans will be used to help teachers individualize the learning for students. In addition, the program has entered into an agreement with APEX Learning to expand online opportunities for credit recovery and blended learning. In order to support students and their families, the program has increased the partnerships within the community and created a parent engagement laboratory at the Blair G. Ewing Center. The 2016–2017 school year will focus on rolling out a comprehensive behavioral management plan to better individualize the needs of our students.

Blair G. Ewing Center

Capital Project: To support the redesigned program, the Board of Education directed staff to explore several studies for Alternative Education Programs at the Blair G. Ewing Center. These studies included:

- A feasibility study for the redesigned Alternative Education Programs at the Blair G. Ewing Center;
- A conceptual review of several other possible locations for the Alternative Education Programs including the English Manor Elementary School site, other closed schools and Board of Education property, and the current site of Rock Terrace School; and
- Commercial locations.

Based on the review of these studies, the Board of Education approved that Alternative Education Programs at the Blair G. Ewing Center be relocated to the Rock Terrace School site beginning in January 2022. In order for this project to be completed on schedule, an FY 2018 appropriation for facility planning is approved for a feasibility study to determine the scope and cost to relocate the project to the Rock Terrace School site.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Blair G. Ewing Center	Relocate to Rock Terrace School site	Approved	Jan. 2022

*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 approved in FY 2017 or in FY 2018 for a feasibility study.

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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Lathrop E. Smith Center

The Lathrop E. Smith Center is owned and operated by Montgomery County Public Schools and hosts the Outdoor Environmental Education Programs (OEEP) that includes the Grade 6 residential program and Grades K–5 day program. OEEP provides outdoor learning experiences through the MCPS curriculum that increase students’ environmental content and science process knowledge; nurture awareness, appreciation, and stewardship for the natural environment; and build the capacity of Grades K–12 MCPS educators to teach environmental education, while encouraging the use of the outdoors as a science classroom.

All Grade 6 students in MCPS participate in a three-day, two-night residential outdoor environmental education program that is part of the curriculum. While in residence, students study various aspects of the local watershed through participation in outdoor field investigations that teach MCPS curriculum and address the MSDE environmental education standards. The teaching and learning that occurs at school and during the residential program create a meaningful watershed environmental experience for each Grade 6 student, and culminates in an environmental student service learning project. Students are accompanied by their teachers, who, in collaboration with an OEEP staff member, provide instruction and supervision during their stay.

The day program primarily serves students in Grades K–5. Each field investigation is directly linked to the school curriculum at each grade level with a focus on science and the environment. Schools also may request an in-school visit from an environmental educator to provide assistance and guidance in the integration of environmental education at the local school site. The center also provides professional development after school and in the summer to more than 300 teachers in the content and pedagogy of environmental education.

Facility Characteristics of Schools 2016–2017

Schools	Year Facility Opened	Year Reopened/ Revitalized	Total Square Footage	Site Size Acres	Adjacent Park	Reloc-atable Classrooms	County Programs	Home School Model
Thomas Edison HS of Tech.	1982		114,310	28.2	Yes			
Blair G. Ewing Center	1970		85,400	22.5				
Lathrop E. Smith Center			20,345	9.78	Yes			

Career Technology Education Programs

Career and Technology Education (CTE) Programs of Study (POS) prepare students for college, careers, and lifelong learning. Montgomery County Public Schools currently offers College/Career Research Development in addition to over 34 POS organized within the following 11 career clusters:

- Arts, Humanities, Media, and Communications;
- Biosciences, Health Science, and Medicine;
- Business Management and Finance;
- Construction and Development;
- Education, Training, and Child Studies;
- Engineering, Scientific Research, and Manufacturing Technologies;
- Environmental, Agricultural, and Natural Resources;
- Human and Consumer Services, Hospitality, and Tourism;
- Information Technology;
- Law, Government, Public Safety, and Administration; and
- Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics.

Plans are in place to increase the number of POS offered by MCPS to include programs such as Homeland Security and Teacher Academy of Maryland. Over 11,000 MCPS students are enrolled in at least one CTE POS pathway course at comprehensive high schools throughout the county or at Thomas Edison High School of Technology (TEHST). CTE POS focus on challenging and engaging instruction that provide academic and technical knowledge and skills and prepare students for college and careers. Most POS provide opportunities for students to earn college credit through college courses or articulation agreements with select postsecondary institutions. These agreements allow students to earn college credit for identified high school courses that are successfully completed with a grade of 'B' or better. Internship experiences connect students with the world of work, enhancing the rigor and relevance of the POS. Students take and pass industry credentialing examinations in areas such as business, information technology, hospitality, and cosmetology.

There are regional hubs, like the TEHST location, that give students from all high schools equitable access to select POS. Students report to the identified location for half a day and spend the other half of the school day at their home high school. To ensure relevance to college and industry, CTE staff members have established a Program Advisory Committee (PAC) for each career cluster. The PAC includes representatives from the business community and secondary and postsecondary institutions. PACs strive to provide seamless experiences for students as they move from middle school to high school and postsecondary experiences.

Foundations Office Programs

The Montgomery County Student Trades Foundations Office is composed of the following three separate non-profit educational foundations: Automotive Trades Foundation (ATF), Construction Trades Foundation (CTF), and Information Technology Foundation (ITF). The Foundations Office is a liaison between the business/professional community in these three industry areas and MCPS. This relationship promotes the advancement of college and career education and prepares students for a full range of careers within each industry. In MCPS, there are currently 16 POS supervised by staff in the Foundations Office. Articulation agreements are in place for all Foundation programs with select postsecondary institutions; however, students may also earn college credit by enrolling in and successfully completing pre-approved college courses that align with their respective POS.

The ATF operates as a licensed used-car dealership. ATF programs are located at Damascus, Gaithersburg, and Seneca Valley high schools in addition to TEHST. The programs are nationally certified by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF), an affiliation of Automotive Service of Excellence (ASE). The programs also are affiliated with Automotive Youth Education System (AYES), which is the highest level of achievement for automotive technology programs. Automotive instructors maintain industry standard certifications in ASE areas relevant to their programs.

The CTF program operates as a licensed Residential Home Builder and supports a variety of construction industry trades that include the following: Carpentry, Electricity, Masonry, Plumbing, HVAC, Principles of Architecture and CAD Technology, and Foundations of Building and Construction Technology. The CTF programs are located at TEHST. The Foundation also has established a partnership with Associated Builders and Contractors, Metro Washington Chapter (ABC Metro). ABC Metro has certified the instructors, accredited the facility, and formalized articulation agreements. This program provides a nationally recognized certifications from the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). The CTF also has aligned with the construction programs at Montgomery College, allowing students further opportunities for professional development and advancement in the construction industry.

The ITF provides a POS in Network Operations at Clarksburg High School and TEHST, both of which are Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) Academy and Microsoft DreamSpark member programs. The ITF's unique public/private partnership promotes computer education and provides entrepreneurial experiences to high school students throughout Montgomery County, preparing students for seamless transitions into the computer technology industry and college or other postsecondary education.

Additional POS pathways in information technology and/or computer science are provided at twenty four out of twenty five high schools and six middle schools. Programs offered

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include computer science, programming, networking and web development. Each program is aligned with national partners and/or national academies. These include the National Academy Foundations' Academy of Information Technology, Cisco Networking Academy, and a partnership program with Code.org.

Seneca Valley High School has a revitalization/expansion project scheduled that includes the Automotive Technology Dealership/Training POS, Cisco Academy, and the Academy of Information Technology pathways in Programming, Networking and Information Resource Design.

Thomas Edison High School of Technology

Planning Study: Wheaton High School and Thomas Edison High School of Technology (TEHST) were located on the same site and shared one facility. These schools are in the process of undergoing a revitalization/expansion projects.

Prior to the start of construction on Wheaton High School, two major planning studies were conducted to prepare for the revitalization/expansion projects of these schools. During fall and winter 2010–2011, a Roundtable Discussion Group, with broad stakeholder involvement, met to explore various approaches for the future relationship between the two schools. Following the Roundtable Discussion Group review, the Board of Education took action on March 28, 2011. The decision was to maintain the two schools as two separate entities. Staff conducted a feasibility study and reviewed two options—a one-building option and a two-building option. At the conclusion of the feasibility study, on September 13, 2011, the Board of Education adopted a two-building option for the revitalization/expansion projects of Wheaton High School and Thomas Edison High School of Technology.

Capital Project: The Wheaton High School facility project was completed in January 2016. The Thomas Edison High School of Technology facility will be complete in September 2018 and the entire site will be restored by September 2019.

Capital Project: On September 22, 2014, the Board of Education approved a plan to offer a financial literacy program at Thomas Edison High School of Technology to all Grade 7 students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). An agreement between MCPS and Junior Achievement of Greater Washington was reached to proceed with the construction of a Junior Achievement Finance Park at Thomas Edison High School of Technology. A fourth floor will be added to Thomas Edison High School of Technology to accommodate the Junior Achievement Finance Park. Grade 7 students not only will benefit from the lifelong knowledge and skills gained at Junior Achievement Finance Park, they also will have the opportunity to learn about the exciting programs available at Thomas Edison High School of Technology.

The Junior Achievement Finance Park experience begins in the classroom with four weeks of classroom curriculum and culminates with a day at the Junior Achievement Finance Park. At Junior Achievement Finance Park, students immerse

themselves in a reality-based, decision-making process that addresses aspects of individual and family budgeting—housing, transportation, food, utilities, health care, investments, philanthropy, and banking. The on-site activities are designed to allow students the opportunity to “put into action” what they learned in the classroom and to understand the basic steps of maintaining a realistic personal budget. Two weeks of classroom follow-up activities will allow students to use their new financial knowledge to explore career options and to set future goals.

Junior Achievement of Greater Washington has agreed to contribute up to \$2,500,000 for the construction of the Junior Achievement Finance Park. An FY 2015 supplemental appropriation was approved for the amount of \$2,500,000 to be expended over a period of three fiscal years. The scheduled completion date for the Junior Achievement Finance Park will coincide with the completion of Thomas Edison High School of Technology, on January 2018.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Thomas Edison HS of Technology	Revitalization/expansion and Junior Achievement Finance Park	Approved	Sept. 2018, Building Sept. 2019, Site

*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 approved in FY 2017 or in FY 2018 for a feasibility study.

Holding Facilities

Holding facilities are utilized for capital projects, such as revitalization/expansion projects and large-scale addition projects, to house students and staff during construction. By relocating students and staff to a holding facility, MCPS is able to reduce the length of time required for construction and provide a safe and secure environment for the students and staff. Currently, MCPS utilizes the following facilities as holding schools for revitalization/expansion projects and large-scale addition projects.

Elementary School Holding Facilities

The elementary school holding facilities were assessed as part of the Facilities Assessment with Criteria and Testing (FACT) process during the 2010–2011 school year. To address needs at these facilities, an FY 2013 appropriation for facility planning was approved in the Modifications to Holding, Special Education, and Alternative Centers Project for feasibility studies to identify improvements for these buildings. Due to fiscal constraints in the county, a recommendation for facility improvements will be made in a future CIP. The following facilities are utilized for elementary school projects:

- Emory Grove
- Fairland
- Grosvenor
- North Lake
- Radnor
- Secondary School Holding Facilities
- Broome Holding Facility

Capital Project: The Broome facility is currently owned by Montgomery County. Although FY 2015 expenditures for planning funds were programmed to reopen the facility for use as a middle school holding facility, due to fiscal constraints in the county, these funds have been deferred until a recommendation can be made in a future CIP.

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Holding Facility Schedule

Holding Facility	SY 17-18	SY 18-19	SY 19-20	SY 20-21	SY 21-22	SY 22-23
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS						
Emory Grove Center					DuFief**	Damascus**
Fairland Center					Stonegate**	
Grosvenor Center		Luxmanor			Cold Spring**	Twinbrook**
North Lake Center	Lucy V. Barnsley	Maryvale			Belmont**	Summit Hall**
Radnor Center		Potomac				Rosemary Hills**
MIDDLE SCHOOLS						
Tilden Center/ Woodward Center*		To be revitalized/expanded			Eastern*	

* Tilden Middle School is currently located in the Woodward Center. A revitalization/expansion for Tilden Center is scheduled for completion in August 2020, which will house Tilden Middle School and Rock Terrace School. Based on the adopted FY 2017-2022 CIP, the Woodward facility would become a secondary holding facility. However, based on the Board of Education action on November 21, 2016, there are plans to reopen Woodward High School to address the space deficits at Walter Johnson High School and surrounding high schools in the Downcounty Consortium and Bethesda-Chevy Chase and Walt Whitman high schools. For additional information see the following link:
[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/departments/planning/SupplementB.WJClusterSchools\(3\).pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/departments/planning/SupplementB.WJClusterSchools(3).pdf)

**The approach to the Revitalization/Expansion program is being reviewed 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. Possible changes to this program will be considered as part of the development of the FY 2019-2024 Capital Improvements Program. (See Appendix J for more information.)

Facility Characteristics of Schools 2016-2017

Holding Facility	Level	Facility Address	Rooms	Total Square Footage	Site Size Acres	Relocatable Classrooms
Emory Grove Center	Elementary	18100 Washington Grove Lane	19	45,002	10.17	18
Fairland Center	Elementary	13313 Old Columbia Pike	26	45,082	9.21	
Grosvenor Center	Elementary	5701 Grosvenor lane	19	36,770	10.21	17
North Lake Center	Elementary	15101 Bauer Drive	22	40,378	9.66	16
Radnor Center	Elementary	7000 Radnor Road	16	36,663	9.03	23
Tilden Center	Middle	6300 Tilden Lane	39	119,516	19.7	