

# 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.

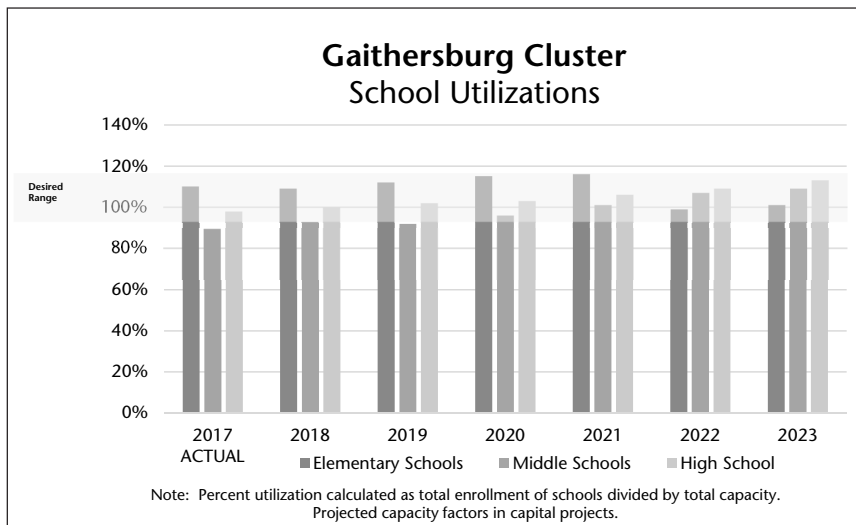
On April 19, 2016, the Board of Education approved the following actions for the elementary schools in the Gaithersburg Cluster that stemmed from the Roundtable.

- 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. 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.

**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>



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**Planning Study:** A boundary study was conducted in spring 2017 to reassign the portion of the Shady Grove Sector Plan 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 March 22, 2018, based on the recommendation to open a new school in the Gaithersburg Cluster, the Board of Education approved not to reassign the portion of the Shady Grove Sector Plan within the Gaithersburg Cluster service area to Col. Zadok Magruder schools.

### 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 March 22, 2018, based on the recommendation to open a new school in the Gaithersburg Cluster, the Board of Education approved not to reassign the portion of the Shady Grove Sector Plan within the Gaithersburg Cluster service area to Col. Zadok Magruder schools.

**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 to begin the architectural design for this new school, the County Council delayed the funds by one year to begin in FY 2020. 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 March 22, 2018, based on the recommendation to open a new school in the Gaithersburg Cluster, the Board of Education approved not to reassign the portion of the Shady Grove Sector Plan within the Gaithersburg Cluster service area to Col. Zadok Magruder schools.

**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 approved 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

**Planning Study:** Projections indicated that enrollment will exceed capacity by the end of the six-year planning period. Although an FY 2019 appropriation was 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. The study included 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 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 a site selection committee evaluate potential school sites in the Gaithersburg Cluster. 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.

**Capital Project:** A new school was approved to open in the Gaithersburg Cluster with a scheduled completion date of September 2022. An FY 2019 appropriation is approved to begin the architectural design and planning for Gaithersburg

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Elementary School #8. In order for this project to be completed on time, county and state funding must be provided at the levels approved in this CIP.

### **Gaithersburg Elementary School #8**

**Planning Issue:** In order to address the growing space needs in this cluster schools, a site selection study was approved to identify the location for a new elementary school in the cluster.

**Capital Project:** A new school was approved to open in the Gaithersburg Cluster with a scheduled completion date of September 2022. An FY 2019 appropriation is approved to begin the architectural design and planning for Gaithersburg Elementary School #8. In order for this project to be completed on time, county and state funding must be provided at the levels approved in this CIP.

### **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**

**Planning Study:** 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. The Gaithersburg Elementary School feasibility study revealed several challenges with construction, security, and administration of the building. 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 a site selection committee to evaluate potential school sites in the Gaithersburg Cluster. 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.

**Capital Project:** A new school was approved to open in the Gaithersburg Cluster with a scheduled completion date of September 2022. An FY 2019 appropriation is approved to begin the architectural design and planning for Gaithersburg

Elementary School #8. In order for this project to be completed on time, county and state funding must be provided at the levels approved in this CIP.

### **Strawberry Knoll Elementary School**

**Planning Study:** 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. The Gaithersburg Elementary School feasibility study revealed several challenges with construction, security, and administration of the building. 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 a site selection committee evaluate potential school sites in the Gaithersburg Cluster. 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.

**Capital Project:** A new school was approved to open in the Gaithersburg Cluster with a scheduled completion date of September 2022. An FY 2019 appropriation is approved to begin the architectural design and planning for Gaithersburg Elementary School #8. In order for this project to be completed on time, county and state funding must be provided at the levels approved in this CIP.

### **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 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 a site selection committee be formed to evaluate potential school sites in the Gaithersburg Cluster. 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.

**Capital Project:** A new school was approved to open in the Gaithersburg Cluster with a scheduled completion date of September 2022. An FY 2019 appropriation is approved to begin the architectural design and planning for Gaithersburg Elementary School #8. In order for this project to be completed on time, county and state funding must be provided at the levels approved in this CIP.

**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.

**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 March 22, 2018, based on the recommendation to open a new school in the Gaithersburg Cluster, the Board of Education approved not to reassign the portion of the Shady Grove Sector Plan within the Gaithersburg Cluster service area to Col. Zadok Magruder schools.

**Capital Project:** A new school was approved to open in the Gaithersburg Cluster with a scheduled completion date of September 2022. An FY 2019 appropriation is approved to begin the architectural design and planning for Gaithersburg Elementary School #8. In order for this project to be completed on time, county and state funding must be provided at the levels approved in this CIP.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS**

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Gaithersburg ES #8	New School	Approved	Sept. 2022

\*Approved—Project has an FY 2019 appropriation for planning or construction funds approved in the FY 2019–2024 CIP.

\*Delayed—Project has expenditures approved in the FY 2019–2024 CIP but the completion date was delayed by one year.

\*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.

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

Schools		Actual	Projections								
			17–18	18–19	19–20	20–21	21–22	22–23	23–24	2027	2032
Gaithersburg HS	Program Capacity	2429	2429	2429	2429	2429	2429	2429	2429	2429	2429
	Enrollment	2386	2438	2481	2505	2582	2649	2736	2950	3240	
	Available Space	43	(9)	(52)	(76)	(153)	(220)	(307)	(521)	(811)	
	Comments	See text									
Forest Oak MS	Program Capacity	949	949	949	949	949	949	949	949	949	
	Enrollment	859	893	868	914	968	1089	1136	1340	1620	
	Available Space	90	56	81	35	(19)	(140)	(187)	(391)	(671)	
	Comments		Capacity Study								
Gaithersburg MS	Program Capacity	945	945	945	945	945	945	945	945	945	
	Enrollment	829	877	866	895	950	939	937	1030	1120	
	Available Space	116	68	79	50	(5)	6	8	(85)	(175)	
	Comments										
Gaithersburg ES	Program Capacity	788	788	788	788	788	788	788			
	Enrollment	860	860	889	889	886	904	920			
	Available Space	(72)	(72)	(101)	(101)	(98)	(116)	(132)			
	Comments	See text									
Gaithersburg ES #8	Program Capacity						740	740			
	Enrollment						0	0			
	Available Space						740	740			
	Comments		Planning for new school				Opens				
Goshen ES	Program Capacity	589	589	589	589	589	589	589			
	Enrollment	623	616	628	611	612	617	603			
	Available Space	(34)	(27)	(39)	(22)	(23)	(28)	(14)			
	Comments										
Laytonsville ES	Program Capacity	449	449	449	449	449	449	449			
	Enrollment	379	362	341	329	309	302	320			
	Available Space	70	87	108	120	140	147	129			
	Comments										
Rosemont ES	Program Capacity	585	585	585	585	585	585	585			
	Enrollment	625	605	689	740	790	819	866			
	Available Space	(40)	(20)	(104)	(155)	(205)	(234)	(281)			
	Comments	See text									
Strawberry Knoll ES	Program Capacity	466	466	466	466	466	466	466			
	Enrollment	668	658	674	688	686	687	681			
	Available Space	(202)	(192)	(208)	(222)	(220)	(221)	(215)			
	Comments	See text									
Summit Hall ES	Program Capacity	438	438	438	438	438	438	438			
	Enrollment	668	666	649	661	656	655	659			
	Available Space	(230)	(228)	(211)	(223)	(218)	(217)	(221)			
	Comments	See text									
Washington Grove ES	Program Capacity	613	613	613	613	613	613	613			
	Enrollment	481	506	541	584	605	631	651			
	Available Space	132	107	72	29	8	(18)	(38)			
	Comments	See text									
Cluster Information	HS Utilization	98%	100%	102%	103%	106%	109%	113%	121%	133%	
	HS Enrollment	2386	2438	2481	2505	2582	2649	2736	2950	3240	
	MS Utilization	89%	93%	92%	96%	101%	107%	109%	125%	145%	
	MS Enrollment	1688	1770	1734	1809	1918	2028	2073	2370	2740	
	ES Utilization	110%	109%	112%	115%	116%	99%	101%	121%	131%	
ES Enrollment	4304	4273	4411	4502	4544	4615	4700	4740	5150		

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**Demographic Characteristics of Schools**

Schools	2017-2018								2016-2017
	Total Enrollment	Two or more races %	Black or Afr. Amer. %	Asian%	Hispanic %	White %	FARMS%*	ESOL%**	Mobility Rate%***
Gaithersburg HS	2386	3.5%	23.9%	7.5%	50.2%	14.8%	40.1%	23.1%	20.2%
Forest Oak MS	859	3.0%	25.6%	6.5%	54.2%	10.4%	56.7%	16.5%	16.6%
Gaithersburg MS	829	3.5%	21.5%	6.5%	49.1%	19.2%	47.0%	17.0%	13.7%
Laytonsville ES	379	8.7%	18.2%	7.1%	19.8%	45.6%	17.2%	7.7%	12.9%
Gaithersburg ES	860	2.1%	15.2%	3.1%	76.0%	3.3%	85.1%	50.0%	24.4%
Goshen ES	623	5.5%	23.9%	11.4%	37.6%	21.5%	41.4%	22.2%	14.1%
Rosemont ES	625	4.3%	28.2%	9.4%	48.3%	9.8%	59.0%	45.3%	24.4%
Strawberry Knoll ES	668	6.9%	25.9%	13.9%	40.6%	12.1%	43.0%	21.3%	15.1%
Summit Hall ES	668	0.9%	20.1%	4.6%	71.1%	3.1%	76.3%	54.5%	21.2%
Washington Grove ES	481	2.3%	23.3%	5.8%	59.3%	8.7%	73.0%	52.4%	14.9%
<b>Elementary Cluster Total</b>	<b>4304</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>53.3%</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>59.8%</b>	<b>38.1%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>
<b>Elementary County Total</b>	<b>76740</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>21.5%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>32.4%</b>	<b>26.5%</b>	<b>39.1%</b>	<b>25.1%</b>	<b>14.1%</b>

\*Percent of students approved for Free and Reduced-priced Meals Program (FARMS) during the 2017-2018 school year.

\*\*Percent of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) during the 2017-2018 school year. High School students are served in regional ESOL centers.

\*\*\*Mobility Rate is the number of entries plus withdrawals during the 2016-2017 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 2017-2018)

Schools	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	Special Education Services																			
															School Based	Cluster Based	Quad Cluster Based			County & Regional Based														
															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	
Gaithersburg HS	9-12	2429	122		96								7	4					3	4				8										
Forest Oak MS	6-8	949	47		43								2							2														
Gaithersburg MS	6-8	945	49		41								2	1									2	3										
Gaithersburg ES	PreK-5	788	44	4		15	12		1		9				1								2											
Goshen ES	K-5	589	34	4		12	11				5				1			1																
Laytonsville ES	K-5	449	27	4		16						2			1					4														
Rosemont ES	PreK-5	585	36	4		8	11		1		7				1								4											
Strawberry Knoll ES	HS-5	466	32	4		1	12	1		1	6				1								2						1	1	2			
Summit Hall ES	HS-5	438	28	5		1	13		1	1	6				1																			
Washington Grove ES	HS-5	613	34	4		10	8		2	1	4				1													1	1	2				

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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	16*	SBHC	Yes
Washington Grove ES	1956	1984	86,266	10.7			SBHC	Yes

\*modular