

# 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.

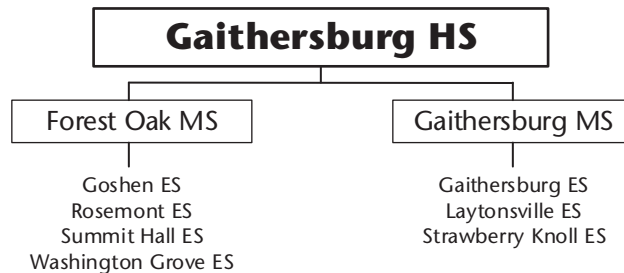
On October 15, 2015, the Findings of the Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School Capacity Study were released. The interim superintendent of schools concluded that challenges existed with both approaches—additions or a new school—including concerns regarding future enrollment, size of schools, and potential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

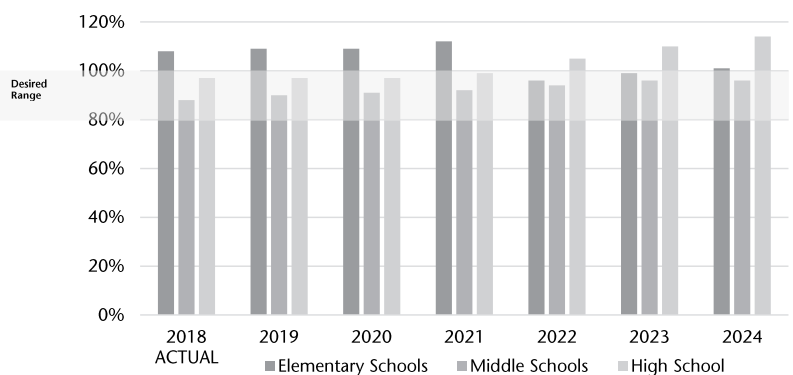
The actions above were completed including the feasibility study for a possible addition at Gaithersburg Elementary School to increase the capacity for 1,000 students. The feasibility study revealed several challenges with construction, security, and administration of the building. Based on these challenges,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

### 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.

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

### 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 is approved for planning to begin the architectural design for the project. 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:** Previous projections indicated that enrollment would exceed capacity by 150 seats or more by the end of the six-year planning period, therefore a capacity a capacity study was approved to explore possible options to provide additional capacity at Forest Oak Middle School. Current projections, however, show that there will be no space deficit throughout the six-year period, thus the capacity study will not be conducted during this CIP cycle.

#### Gaithersburg Elementary School

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

#### Gaithersburg Elementary School #8

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

#### Rosemont Elementary School

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

#### Strawberry Knoll Elementary School

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

#### Summit Hall Elementary School

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

**Capital Project:** A revitalization/expansion project was previously programmed for this school. A new program has been developed to identify large-scale renovations of facilities. Please see Supplement B at the following link for more information: [http://gis.mcpsmd.org/cipmasterpdfs/Supplement\\_B\\_Amended\\_FY2019-2024.pdf](http://gis.mcpsmd.org/cipmasterpdfs/Supplement_B_Amended_FY2019-2024.pdf)

#### Washington Grove Elementary School

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

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Crown HS	New School	Programmed	TBD
Gaithersburg ES #8	New School	Approved	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.

# GAITHERSBURG CLUSTER

## Projected Enrollment and Space Availability

Effects of the Adopted Amendments to the FY2019–2024 CIP and Non-CIP Actions on Space Availability

Schools			Actual	Projections							
			18–19	19–20	20–21	21–22	22–23	23–24	24–25	2028	2033
Gaithersburg HS		Program Capacity	2429	2429	2429	2429	2429	2429	2429	2429	2429
		Enrollment	2352	2359	2351	2406	2541	2667	2764	2829	3000
		Available Space	77	70	78	23	(112)	(238)	(335)	(400)	(571)
		Comments	See text								
Forest Oak MS		Program Capacity	949	949	949	949	949	949	949	949	949
		Enrollment	864	906	895	907	921	931	940	942	960
		Available Space	85	43	54	42	28	18	9	7	(11)
		Comments									
Gaithersburg MS		Program Capacity	1009	1009	1009	1009	1009	1009	1009	1009	1009
		Enrollment	863	859	877	891	925	943	942	935	950
		Available Space	146	150	132	118	84	66	67	74	59
		Comments									
Gaithersburg ES	CSR	Program Capacity	788	788	788	788	788	788	788		
		Enrollment	839	848	815	811	840	888	931		
		Available Space	(51)	(60)	(27)	(23)	(52)	(100)	(143)		
		Comments	See text								
Gaithersburg ES #8	CSR	Program Capacity					740	740	740		
		Enrollment					0	0	0		
		Available Space					740	740	740		
		Comments	Planning for new school				Opens				
Goshen ES		Program Capacity	594	594	594	594	594	594	594		
		Enrollment	578	575	574	622	638	638	637		
		Available Space	16	19	20	(28)	(44)	(44)	(43)		
		Comments	See Text								
Laytonsville ES	CSR	Program Capacity	449	449	449	449	449	449	449		
		Enrollment	384	377	391	386	371	361	359		
		Available Space	65	72	58	63	78	88	90		
		Comments	See Text								
Rosemont ES	CSR	Program Capacity	595	595	595	595	595	595	595		
		Enrollment	628	647	617	636	671	696	714		
		Available Space	(33)	(52)	(22)	(41)	(76)	(101)	(119)		
		Comments	See text								
Strawberry Knoll ES	CSR	Program Capacity	454	454	454	454	454	454	454		
		Enrollment	640	646	675	684	690	694	701		
		Available Space	(186)	(192)	(221)	(230)	(236)	(240)	(247)		
		Comments	See text								
Summit Hall ES	CSR	Program Capacity	435	435	435	435	435	435	435		
		Enrollment	672	676	674	686	691	704	711		
		Available Space	(237)	(241)	(239)	(251)	(256)	(269)	(276)		
		Comments	See text								
Washington Grove ES	CSR	Program Capacity	613	613	613	613	613	613	613		
		Enrollment	492	512	537	568	600	627	641		
		Available Space	121	101	76	45	13	(14)	(28)		
		Comments	See text								
Cluster Information		HS Utilization	97%	97%	97%	99%	105%	110%	114%	116%	124%
		HS Enrollment	2352	2359	2351	2406	2541	2667	2764	2829	3000
		MS Utilization	88%	90%	91%	92%	94%	96%	96%	96%	98%
		MS Enrollment	1727	1765	1772	1798	1846	1874	1882	1877	1910
	ES Utilization	108%	109%	109%	112%	96%	99%	101%	102%	110%	
	ES Enrollment	4233	4281	4283	4393	4501	4608	4694	4740	5150	

## GAITHERSBURG CLUSTER

### Demographic Characteristics of Schools

Schools	2018-2019						2018-2019		2017-2018
	Total Enrollment	Two or more races %	Black or Afr. Amer. %	Asian%	Hispanic %	White %	FARMS%*	ESOL%**	Mobility Rate%***
Gaithersburg HS	2352	3.3%	23.0%	7.1%	53.2%	13.3%	43.6%	23.5%	15.9%
Forest Oak MS	864	3.2%	24.5%	5.9%	55.1%	11.0%	56.5%	17.7%	15.5%
Gaithersburg MS	863	5.0%	22.0%	6.7%	48.4%	17.7%	48.2%	18.5%	14.2%
Laytonsville ES	384	8.3%	17.7%	7.8%	22.1%	43.8%	16.4%	10.4%	10.3%
Gaithersburg ES	839	2.0%	15.7%	3.1%	76.2%	2.7%	85.8%	53.6%	21.0%
Goshen ES	578	5.0%	24.6%	11.9%	40.1%	18.2%	43.8%	24.2%	15.4%
Rosemont ES	628	6.2%	27.5%	9.6%	47.5%	9.2%	53.7%	44.3%	20.2%
Strawberry Knoll ES	640	6.6%	25.2%	12.2%	43.4%	12.2%	41.6%	22.0%	16.2%
Summit Hall ES	672	1.8%	20.1%	3.3%	72.2%	2.4%	79.6%	57.6%	20.5%
Washington Grove ES	488	2.3%	24.0%	6.1%	57.6%	10.0%	72.3%	51.2%	12.1%
<b>Elementary Cluster Total</b>	<b>4229</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>54.3%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>59.8%</b>	<b>39.9%</b>	<b>17.3%</b>
<b>Elementary County Total</b>	<b>76195</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>21.5%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>32.7%</b>	<b>26.0%</b>	<b>38.3%</b>	<b>25.6%</b>	<b>13.1%</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 2017-2018 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 2018-2019)

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														
Gaithersburg HS	9-12	2429	122		96											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
Forest Oak MS	6-8	949	47		43								7	4					3	4				8										
Gaithersburg MS	6-8	1009	52		44								2	1										2	3									
Gaithersburg ES	PreK-5	788	44	4		15	12	1		9				1										2										
Goshen ES	K-5	594	34	4		13	10			5				1				1																
Laytonsville ES	K-5	449	27	4		16						2		1							4													
Rosemont ES	PreK-5	595	36	4		10	10	1		6				1									4											
Strawberry Knoll ES	HS-5	454	32	4		1	11	1		1	6			1										3						1	1	2		
Summit Hall ES	HS-5	435	28	5			13	1	1	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 2018–2019

Schools	Year Facility Opened	Year Reopened/ Revitalized	Total Square Footage	Site Size Acres	Adjacent Park	Relocatable 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		94,468	9.22		11	SBHC
Goshen ES	1988		76,740	10.5		2	
Laytonsville ES	1951	1989	64,160	10.4		1	
Rosemont ES	1965	1995	88,764	8.9		3	SBHC
Strawberry Knoll ES	1988		78,723	10.8	Yes	10	
Summit Hall ES	1971		68,059	10.2	Yes	14	SBHC
Washington Grove ES	1956	1984	86,266	10.7			SBHC

