

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.

The 2018–2019 school year will focus on expanding Alternative Education Programs. Beginning this school year, the program is opening up two additional sites— one at Cloverleaf in Germantown and one at Plum Orchard in Silver Spring, in addition to maintaining the Avery Road location. Providing students regional access to alternative learning and programming will better serve student needs.

Blair G. Ewing Center @ Avery Road

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. Planning funds are approved for this project but the construction funds were removed from the Amended FY 2019–2024 CIP. Funding for this project will be considered in a future CIP.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Blair G. Ewing Center @ Avery Road	Relocate to Rock Terrace School site	Programmed	TBD

*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.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Early Childhood Centers

Early childhood programs in MCPS are targeted to children and families impacted by poverty, including children with disabilities, and provides them with additional time to acquire literacy, mathematics, and social/emotional skills for success in school and later learning in life. In MCPS, 65 elementary schools have locally funded Prekindergarten and/or Federally funded Head Start classes. These programs provide opportunities for children to build school-readiness skills by increasing social interactions, building oral language skills, and fostering vocabulary development.

The MacDonald Knolls Early Childhood Center is a regional early childhood center currently serving 80 Prekindergarten-eligible four-year-olds including those with disabilities in a comprehensive, high-quality, full-day program with a focus on early childhood education. The site is co-located with a community-based child care partner in Silver Spring.

Lathrop E. Smith Center

The Lathrop E. Smith Center, owned and operated by MCPS, is the home of the Outdoor Environmental Education Programs (OEEP), which includes the Grade 6 Residential Program (Outdoor Ed) and Grades K–5 Day Program. OEEP provides outdoor learning experiences that are part of the MCPS curriculum. Using the outdoors as a classroom, teaching and learning facilitates growth in students’ environmental content and science process knowledge; nurtures awareness, appreciation, and stewardship for the natural environment; and builds the capacity of Grades K–12 MCPS educators to teach environmental education.

All Grade 6 MCPS students participate in a three-day, two-night residential outdoor environmental education program (Outdoor Ed) as part of the curriculum. While in residence, students study various aspects of the local watershed through participation in outdoor field investigations and address the MSDE environmental literacy standards. The teaching and learning that occurs at school and during the residential program creates a meaningful watershed environmental experience for each Grade 6 student, and culminates in an

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environmental student service-learning project. The Grade 6 teachers at each middle school, who, in collaboration with an OEEP staff member, outdoor education coordinator, 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 education coordinator 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 400 teachers in the content and pedagogy of environmental education.

Career Readiness Programs

Career Readiness (CR) Programs of Study (POS) prepare students for college, careers, and lifelong learning. MCPS currently offers College/Career Research Development in addition to over 40 POS organized within the following 11 career clusters:

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

This year access to programs expanded to allow students from identified feeder schools to enroll in programs of interest at high schools outside of their home school boundary. Over 13,500 MCPS students enroll annually in at least one CR POS pathway course at comprehensive high schools throughout the county or at Thomas Edison High School of Technology (TEHST). CR POS focus on rigorous and engaging instruction that provide students with the academic and technical knowledge as well as the professional skills needed for postsecondary success. 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. In addition, internship experiences connect students with the world of work, enhancing the rigor and relevance of the POS. Students are provided with a variety of opportunities to take and pass industry-credentialing examinations in areas such as automotive, business, childcare, construction technologies, computer science, cosmetology, fire science, and professions.

There are local schools and regional hubs, like the TEHST location, that give students from all high schools equitable access to select POS. Students may report to the identified

location for half a day and spend the other half of the school day at their home high school. Students also may apply to transfer to select comprehensive high schools based on their interest in a specific POS offering. To ensure relevance to college and industry, CR 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. The PAC provides advice and guidance in a variety of ways including program materials and equipment needs, current industry standards, and industry recognized technical certifications. They also share input related to program planning, development, implementation, curriculum, and student work based learning opportunities.

Foundations Office Programs

The Montgomery County Student Trades Foundations Office serves as a liaison between the business/professional community and MCPS, and currently supervises 22 Programs of Study (POS) within MCPS. These collaborative programs offers students state-of-the-art technology and supports education and training. The Foundations Office manages programs for three separate foundations, computer science and information technology programs systemwide, STEM-related courses, the CREA programs, and other CTE-related programs.

Foundations programs include automotive (ATF), construction (CTF), and information technology (ITF) courses with hands-on learning and entrepreneurial experiences through student-run businesses. The ATF reconditions donated cars and operates a mini car dealership with automotive technology and auto body programs. The CTF operates a design/build business, which constructs a single-family home with skills learned in architecture, carpentry, electricity, plumbing, masonry, and HVAC. The ITF runs a computer refurbishing business, using skills from the Network Operations program. All Foundations program students have opportunities to earn industry credentials, workforce skills, articulated college credits, and advance placement with local colleges. The local business partnerships ensures that all stakeholders monitor and invest their resources to promote the effectiveness of the programs.

The Foundations Office also manages all computer science programs within MCPS, which includes Code.org/Computer Science, the Academy of Information Technology, Cisco Networking Academy, and Pathways in Network and Information Technology (P-TECH). Most of these technology programs are available in every high schools and most middle schools, and are aligned with national partners and/or academies. A new senior capstone course to complete the Computer Science/Code.org POS is offered at Thomas Edison High School to prepare students for a rewarding career in the Cybersecurity industry. Also in 2019-2020, the P-TECH program will be in its second year at Clarksburg High School as a dual-enrollment opportunity focusing on STEM with the goal of earning an A.A.S. degree from Montgomery College while still in high school.

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The Career Readiness and Education Academy (CREA) provides a supportive alternative pathway for English Language Learners who are unlikely to meet graduation requirements prior to aging out of the school system at 21. This program, managed by the Foundations Office, is a full day program or evening program. CREA students participate in career pathway classes in Foundations of Construction, Automotive Technology, Hospitality & Tourism, Restaurant Management, and Child Development. Academic classes to improve math and literacy skills are also included in preparation for the GED. CREA programs will be expanded to serve students upcounty at Seneca Valley and Gaitherburg high schools.

Many STEM-related CTE programs including, Project Lead the Way engineering, Academy of Health Professions and Biosciences, and Aviation programs also are under the umbrella of the Foundations Office. The Foundations Office has been essential in the creation of the Aviation program where students have the opportunity to participate in aviation courses offered at Magruder High School to earn a pilot's license or an unmanned aircraft certification. Seneca Valley High School is in the midst of being revitalized and expanded to become an Upcounty Career Center, and will house the Foundations Office programs of Automotive Technology & Dealership Training, Construction Trades programs, Cisco Academy, and the AOIT offerings of Programming, Networking, Project Lead the Way engineering courses, Academy of Health Professions, computer science, and cybersecurity.

Regardless of the career path, the Tech-Ed credit is required for all MCPS graduates. The Foundations Office ensures that students have access to options at all high schools to meet the state-mandated requirements.

Thomas Edison High School of Technology

Students enrolled in all MCPS comprehensive high schools may apply for one of 18 career and readiness programs at the Thomas Edison High School of Technology. Students attend Edison every day for three class periods and transportation is provided. In addition to offering valuable professional certifications and licenses, many programs are articulated with colleges and universities for college credit.

Capital Project: The Wheaton High School facility project was completed in January 2016. The Thomas Edison High School of Technology facility was complete in September 2018 and the entire site will be restored by September 2019. For the first time, all MCPS Grade 7 students will participate in the Junior Achievement Finance Park financial literacy curriculum and culminating field trip to the new Finance Park at the Thomas Edison HS of Technology. 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.

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 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.

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

- Emory Grove
- Fairland
- Grosvenor
- North Lake
- Radnor

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Holding Facility Schedule

Holding Facility	SY 18-19	SY 19-20	SY 20-21	SY 21-22	SY 22-23	SY 23-24	SY 24-25
Emory Grove Center				DuFief			
Fairland Center							
Grosvenor Center	Luxmanor						
North Lake Center	Maryvale						
Radnor Center	Potomac						

Facility Characteristics of Schools 2018-2019

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	21
Radnor Center	Elementary	7000 Radnor Road	16	36,663	9.03	23