

# WALTER JOHNSON CLUSTER

## CLUSTER PLANNING ISSUES

The Walter Johnson Cluster has experienced considerable enrollment growth in the past eight years, primarily driven by the turnover of homes to younger families. New development in the cluster also has played a role, although by a significantly smaller amount than demographic changes in existing communities. The White Flint Sector Plan, adopted in 2010, provides for up to 9,800 new multi-family residential units over the next 20–30 years. A future elementary school site is approved in the plan. The plan requires the redevelopment of existing land uses and is phased with major transit and infrastructure improvements.

The cluster also will see substantial amounts of new housing associated with the following recently approved land-use plans: Rock Spring Master Plan, White Flint 2 Sector Plan, and Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Area Minor Master Plan. Currently, there are approximately 11,340 units in the development pipeline approved, but unbuilt, within the Walter Johnson Cluster. Of the 11,340 units, approximately 10,900 are multifamily and 440 are single family units. Additional information on the various land-use plans can be found at the following weblinks:

Rock Spring Master Plan—<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/midcounty/rock-spring/>

White Flint 2 Sector Plan—<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/midcounty/white-flint/white-flint-2-sector-plan/>

Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Area Minor Master Plan—<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/midcounty/grosvenor-strathmore-minor-master-plan-amendment/>

**Planning Study:** A Site Selection Committee was held in spring 2018, to identify possible sites for a new elementary school in the Walter Johnson Cluster. The projected space deficits at the elementary school level in the cluster was not sufficient to recommend a new elementary school for the Walter Johnson Cluster at that time. In November 2018, the Board of Education adopted a capacity study for the elementary schools in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster. Given the space deficits in the Walter Johnson Cluster, in November 2018, the Board of Education expanded the capacity study to explore possible solutions that would include the elementary schools in both the Walter Johnson and Bethesda-Chevy Chase clusters. The Board of Education also included a joint site selection process for the two clusters conducted in summer 2019. The adopted FY2023–2028 CIP included planning funds in the out-years for this new elementary school with a TBD completion date. An FY 2025 appropriation was requested, however, due to fiscal constraints, the County Council shifted planning expenditures to the out-years of the adopted FY2025–2030 CIP. Once planning is complete, construction funds, along with a completion date, will be considered in a future CIP.

**Planning Issue:** On March 28, 2023, the Board of Education approved the boundary study scope to create the service area for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School. The scope of the boundary study includes the following high schools: Bethesda Chevy-Chase, Montgomery Blair, Albert Einstein, Walter Johnson, John F. Kennedy, Northwood, Wheaton, and Walt Whitman. The scope also includes the following middle schools: Argyle, Eastern, A. Mario Loiederman, Newport Mill, North Bethesda, Parkland, Thomas W. Pyle, Odessa Shannon, Silver Creek, Silver Spring International, Sligo, Takoma Park, Tilden, and Westland. No elementary schools are included in the boundary study.

As part of the adopted FY 2025–2030 CIP, the completion date for the Northwood High School project was delayed one-year due to an extension of the construction timeline. As a result of Northwood High School remaining at Charles W. Woodward High School, its holding facility, for one additional year, the completion date for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School is August 2027. On March 19, 2024, the Board of Education adopted a revised timeline for the boundary study. Information regarding this boundary study is available on the MCPS website at the following link [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/woodwardhsboundarystudy/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/woodwardhsboundarystudy/)

## SCHOOLS

### Walter Johnson High School

**Planning Issue:** See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

### Charles W. Woodward High School

**Planning Issue:** See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

**Capital Project:** To address the urgent space needs at Walter Johnson High School and the Downcounty Consortium high schools, an FY 2021 appropriation for construction was approved for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School. The Board of Education approved that Charles W. Woodward High School be used as a holding school, starting

## Walter Johnson Cluster Articulation

2024–2025 School Year

Walter Johnson HS

North Bethesda MS

Tilden MS

Ashburton ES  
Kensington Parkwood ES  
Wyngate ES

Farmland ES  
Garrett Park ES  
Luxmanor ES

See Appendix U for multicolored maps of the service areas.

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in August 2023, for Northwood High School. An FY 2023 appropriation was requested for construction cost increases and the balance of construction funds. However, due to fiscal constraints, the County Council, in the adopted FY2023–2028 CIP, delayed this project one year. The additional expenditures were approved, but the scheduled completion date for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School was August 2026. An FY 2024 appropriation was approved for construction cost increases. As part of the Board of Education’s adopted FY2025–2030 CIP, the construction schedule for the Northwood High School project was extended one year, with a completion date of August 2027. Since Charles W. Woodward High School is the holding facility for Northwood High School, the completion date for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School is August 2027. Due to the continued effects of Covid-19 pandemic on construction cost increases, the budget for this project was insufficient to complete the construction scope as originally intended. Therefore, to move forward with the construction and remain on schedule, the Board of Education approved, as part of the FY2025–2030 CIP, a Phase III for this project that will include the construction of the auditorium. An FY 2026 appropriation and amendment to the FY 2025–2030 CIP is recommended to complete Phase III, the interior fit-out of the auditorium and other associated spaces, and keep the completion date of August 2027.

### North Bethesda Middle School

**Planning Issue:** See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

### Tilden Middle School

**Planning Issue:** See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

### Ashburton Elementary School

**Planning Issue:** See text under Cluster Planning Study.

### Bethesda-Chevy Chase/Walter Johnson Clusters Elementary School

**Planning Study:** See text under Cluster Planning Study.

**Capital Project:** Projections indicate that enrollment will exceed capacity for some of the elementary schools in these two clusters. An FY 2025 appropriation was requested, however, due to fiscal constraints, the County Council shifted planning expenditures to the out-years of the adopted FY2025–2030 CIP. Once planning is complete, construction funds, along with a completion date, will be considered in a future CIP.

### Farmland Elementary School

**Planning Issue:** See text under Cluster Planning Study.

**Capital Project:** Projections indicate that enrollment will exceed capacity by 92 seats by the end of the six-year planning period. Therefore, enrollment will continue to be monitored and relocatable classrooms will be utilized, if needed.

### Garrett Park Elementary School

**Planning Issue:** See text under Cluster Planning Study.

### Kensington-Parkwood Elementary School

**Planning Issue:** See text under Cluster Planning Study.

### Luxmanor Elementary School

**Planning Issue:** See text under Cluster Planning Study.

### Wygate Elementary School

**Planning Issue:** See text under Cluster Planning Study.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Charles W. Woodward HS	New School	Recommended	August 2024/2027
Bethesda-Chevy Chase/Walter Johnson Clusters ES	New	Programmed	TBD

CIP for planning or construction funds.

**Recommended**—Project has a recommended FY 2026 appropriation for planning or construction in the FY 2025–2030 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.

# WALTER JOHNSON CLUSTER

## Projected Enrollment and Space Availability

Effects of the Superintendent's Recommended FY 2026 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2025–2030 CIP

Schools			Prelim.	Projections							
			24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	2034	2039
Walter Johnson HS	Program Capacity		2251	2251	2251	2251	2251	2251	2251	2251	2251
	<b>Enrollment</b>		<b>3012</b>	<b>3048</b>	<b>3016</b>	<b>3030</b>	<b>3042</b>	<b>3058</b>	<b>3103</b>	<b>3125</b>	<b>3125</b>
	Available Space		(761)	(797)	(765)	(779)	(791)	(807)	(852)	(874)	(874)
	Comments		See Text								
Charles W. Woodward HS	Program Capacity					2249	2249	2249	2249	2249	2249
	<b>Enrollment</b>					<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	Available Space					2249	2249	2249	2249	2249	2249
	Comments		See Text			Opens					
North Bethesda MS	Program Capacity		1203	1203	1203	1203	1203	1203	1203	1203	1203
	<b>Enrollment</b>		<b>1224</b>	<b>1268</b>	<b>1306</b>	<b>1318</b>	<b>1321</b>	<b>1323</b>	<b>1299</b>	<b>1310</b>	<b>1310</b>
	Available Space		(21)	(65)	(103)	(115)	(118)	(120)	(96)	(107)	(107)
	Comments		See Text								
Tilden MS	Program Capacity		1264	1264	1264	1264	1264	1264	1264	1264	1264
	<b>Enrollment</b>		<b>1116</b>	<b>1133</b>	<b>1168</b>	<b>1178</b>	<b>1181</b>	<b>1182</b>	<b>1162</b>	<b>1170</b>	<b>1170</b>
	Available Space		148	131	96	86	83	82	102	94	94
	Comments		See Text								
Ashburton ES	Program Capacity		822	822	822	822	822	822	822		
	<b>Enrollment</b>		<b>874</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>902</b>		
	Available Space		(52)	(81)	(98)	(82)	(87)	(93)	(80)		
	Comments		See Text								
Farmland ES	Program Capacity		724	724	724	724	724	724	724		
	<b>Enrollment</b>		<b>846</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>839</b>		
	Available Space		(122)	(120)	(114)	(138)	(112)	(124)	(115)		
	Comments		See Text								
Garrett Park ES	Program Capacity		778	778	778	778	778	778	778		
	<b>Enrollment</b>		<b>733</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>757</b>		
	Available Space		45	8	2	10	12	17	21		
	Comments		See Text								
Kensington–Parkwood ES	Program Capacity		819	819	819	819	819	819	819		
	<b>Enrollment</b>		<b>540</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>504</b>		
	Available Space		279	288	292	311	310	306	315		
	Comments		See Text								
Luxmanor ES	Program Capacity		746	746	746	746	746	746	746		
	<b>Enrollment</b>		<b>683</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>617</b>		
	Available Space		63	88	89	91	116	130	129		
	Comments		See Text								
Wyngate ES	Program Capacity		801	801	801	801	801	801	801		
	<b>Enrollment</b>		<b>644</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>612</b>		
	Available Space		157	180	181	186	195	193	189		
	Comments		See Text								
Cluster Information	HS Utilization		134%	135%	134%	135%	135%	136%	138%	139%	139%
	HS Enrollment		3012	3048	3016	3030	3042	3058	3103	3125	3125
	MS Utilization		95%	97%	100%	101%	101%	102%	100%	101%	101%
	MS Enrollment		2340	2401	2474	2496	2502	2505	2461	2480	2480
	ES Utilization		92%	92%	92%	92%	91%	91%	90%		
	ES Enrollment		4320	4327	4338	4312	4256	4261	4231		

## WALTER JOHNSON CLUSTER

### Demographic Characteristics of Schools

Schools	2024-2025						2023-2024		
	Total Enrollment	Two or more races %	Black or Afr. Amer. %	Asian%	Hispanic %	White %	FARMS%*	ELD%**	Mobility Rate%***
Walter Johnson HS	3012	6.8%	15.8%	12.9%	19.2%	44.9%	18.2%	6.5%	8.9%
North Bethesda MS	1224	8.9%	13.4%	12.4%	18.5%	46.8%	13.4%	6.9%	6.1%
Tilden MS	1116	7.2%	15.1%	16.9%	21.2%	39.2%	23.6%	16.5%	9.7%
Ashburton ES	874	9.6%	20.3%	17.5%	19.2%	33.3%	18.3%	13.4%	19.4%
Farmland ES	846	6.6%	9.2%	30.0%	13.8%	39.7%	16.5%	30.1%	25.3%
Garrett Park ES	733	8.5%	15.3%	16.4%	20.9%	38.7%	23.6%	23.8%	19.3%
Kensington-Parkwood ES	540	8.5%	8.3%	10.7%	15.4%	57.0%	12.1%	9.6%	7.9%
Luxmanor ES	683	9.1%	18.3%	18.4%	25.5%	28.7%	26.5%	26.5%	19.7%
Wyngate ES	644	11.8%	5.0%	12.4%	14.9%	55.9%	4.7%	6.2%	6.8%
<b>Elementary Cluster Total</b>	<b>4320</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>18.3%</b>	<b>18.3%</b>	<b>41.1%</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>18.8%</b>	<b>17.0%</b>
<b>Elementary County Total</b>	<b>71479</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>21.2%</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>36.5%</b>	<b>23.3%</b>	<b>40.3%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>	<b>20.3%</b>

\*Percent of students approved for Free and Reduced-priced Meals Program (FARMS) during the 2023–2024 school year.

\*\*Percent of English Language Development students (ELD) during the 2023–2024 school year. High School students are served in regional ELD centers.

\*\*\*Mobility Rate is the number of entries plus withdrawals during the 2023–2024 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 2024–2025)

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	ELD @15	METS @15	OTHER	Quad Cluster Based																												
																County & Regional Based																												
																ELC @10	LANG @12	LFI @10	SCB @6	AAC@7	AUT @6	BRIDGE @10	DHOH @7	SESES @10	EXTENSIONS @6	2e @13	PD @7	PEP@6	PEP@12	PEP @18	VISION (Elementary) @7													
Walter Johnson HS	9-12	2251	106		96							2						4			3																							
North Bethesda MS	6-8	1203	59		55							1									2					1																		
Tilden MS	6-8	1264	63		57							2						2			2																							
Ashburton ES	K-5	822	39	3		30						6																																
Farmland ES	K-5	724	37	3		24						6					4																											
Garrett Park ES	K-5	778	37	3		30						4																																
Kensington-Parkwood ES	K-5	819	41	3		31						4									3																							
Luxmanor ES	K-5	746	39	3		24						5					3																							1	3			
Wyngate ES	K-5	801	38	3		31						4																																

## WALTER JOHNSON CLUSTER

### Facility Characteristics of Schools 2024–2025

Schools	Year Facility Opened	Year Reopened/ Revitalized/ Maj. Cap. Proj.	Total Square Footage	Site Size Acres	Adjacent Park	Relocatable Classrooms*	County Programs
Walter Johnson HS	1956	2009	365,138	30.86		19	
North Bethesda MS	1955	1999	178,252	19.11			
Tilden MS	1967	2020	244,561	19.67			
Ashburton ES	1957	1993	91,178	8.3		8	
Farmland ES	1963	2011	89,988	4.75	Yes	4	
Garrett Park ES	1948	2012	96,348	4.38	Yes		
Kensington-Parkwood ES	1952	2006	102,382	9.86			
Luxmanor ES	1966	2020	99,376	6.49	Yes		
Wyngate ES	1952	1997	89,104	9.5			

\*See Appendix H for relocatable use.

\*\*Tilden MS is colocated with Rock Terrace School