

OTHER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

■ ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Montgomery County Public Schools operates an Alternative 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. Alternative Education Programs (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.

Alternative Education Programs currently serves students in two locations in Rockville: Avery Road and the North Lake Center. It is anticipated that the North Lake Center site will be used until June 2027 at which time the program will relocate to the Fairland Center.

CAPITAL PROJECT: A recommendation to renovate the Spring Mill Center for Downcounty Alternative Education Programs to open in August 2029. However the County Council delayed this project by three years, shifting the completion date to August 2032. This program is being recommended to move to the Fairland Center until the Spring Mill Center is renovated.

■ EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS

Early childhood programs in MCPS are targeted to children and families affected 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 100 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 childcare partner in Silver Spring. In addition, the Up-county Early Childhood Center is housed at the Emory Grove Center in Gaithersburg serving approximately 90 Prekindergarten-eligible and 20 Pre-K Plus eligible four-year-olds in an inclusive setting.

■ ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Lathrop E. Smith Center

The Lathrop E. Smith Center, owned and operated by Montgomery County Public Schools, is the home of the Outdoor Environmental Education Programs (OEEP). OEEP organizes and supports the delivery of the state mandated grade 6 Outdoor Education Residential

programming for almost 12,000 students, and also delivers supplementary day programming to almost 6,000 elementary school students annually. The goals of OEEP include increasing students' environmental content and science process knowledge; nurturing student awareness, appreciation, and stewardship for the natural environment; and building the capacity of Grades Pre-K–12 MCPS educators to teach environmental education.

All Grade 6 MCPS students, (approximately 12,000 children) participate in a three-day, two-night residential outdoor environmental education program (Outdoor Ed) as part of the MCPS curriculum, with approximately half of those students experiencing Outdoor Ed at the Smith Center. While in residence, students study various aspects of the local watershed through participation in outdoor field investigations while addressing the MSDE environmental literacy standards. The teaching and learning that occurs at school and during Outdoor Ed provides Meaningful Watershed Environmental Experiences (MWEE) for each Grade 6 student, including actions to help improve that watershed. The Grade 6 teachers at each middle school, in collaboration with an OEEP outdoor education coordinator, provide instruction and supervision during their school's stay.

The Elementary Day Program primarily serves students in Grades K–5: 4,000 students participate at the Smith Center and 2,000 attend at Kingsley Environmental Education Center. Each grade level program features an environmentally focused investigation that is linked to the MCPS science curriculum and uses the outdoors as a laboratory for learning. 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 Smith Center is also the site of professional learning after school and in the summer to more than 400 teachers a year in the content and pedagogy of environmental education. Both the Smith and Kingsley Centers continue to serve as workplace learning sites for students in several MCPS special programs.

■ CAREER TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs of Study (POS) prepares students for both postsecondary education and the workforce by providing hands-on, industry-aligned experiences and developing both academic and essential skills such as communication and teamwork. CTE POS equip students with the specific technical knowledge and practical skills needed to thrive in a variety of high-demand career fields, leading to industry certifications, college credit, and valuable work-based learning opportunities. MCPS currently offers 51 POS organized within the following 12 career clusters:

- Arts, Media, and Communications;
- Business Management and Finance

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- Construction and Development
- Consumer Services, Hospitality, and Tourism
- Education, Training, and Child Studies
- Environmental, Agriculture, and Natural Resources
- Health Professions and Biosciences
- Information Technology and Computer Science
- Law, Government, Public Safety, and Administration
- Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology
- Transportation Technologies
- Apprenticeship Maryland Program

On average, approximately 17,000 MCPS students enroll annually in at least one CTE POS pathway course at a comprehensive high school. In addition, the Wheaton High School (WHS) and Thomas Edison High School of Technology (TEHST) in Wheaton, as well as the Seneca Valley High School (SVHS) in Germantown, are state of the art facilities serving students from each part of the county. CTE POS focus on rigorous and engaging instruction that provide students with the academic and technical knowledge as well as the career competencies needed for postsecondary success. Most POS provide opportunities for students to earn college credit through college courses or articulation agreements, or proficiency credit 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 'C' or better. In addition, internship and apprenticeship experiences connect students with the world of work, enhancing the rigor and relevance of the POS. The programs provide students with a variety of opportunities to take and pass industry-credentialing examinations in areas such as automotive business, childcare, computer science, cosmetology, fire science, and medical professions.

There are a few additional regional hubs, like the ones at TEHST and SVHS, which give students from all high schools 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. 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, 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 credentials. They also share input related to program planning, development, implementation, curriculum, and student work-based learning opportunities.

■ THOMAS EDISON HIGH SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

Students in MCPS can access sixteen career readiness programs at Thomas Edison High School of Technology through a lottery-based application process run through the Department of Consortia and Application Program Services. Students from the following regions are able to apply: Southern (Bethesda Chevy-Chase, Montgomery Blair, Albert Einstein, Walt Whitman), Central South (John F. Kennedy, Walter Johnson, Wheaton, Woodward), Eastern (James Hubert Blake, Paint Branch, Sherwood, and Springbrook) and Central (Winston Churchill, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Thomas S. Wootton). Students attend Edison every day for three class periods with transportation provided. In addition to offering valuable professional certifications and licenses, many programs are articulated with colleges and universities for college credit. Students from Wheaton High School can also access Thomas Edison High School of Technology for single and double period courses.

All MCPS Grade 7 students will participate in the Junior Finance Park financial literacy curriculum and culminating field trip to the Finance Park at the Thomas Edison High School of Technology. At the 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.

Thomas Edison High School of Technology Is the location for the evening Career Readiness Education Academy + (CREA+) program; an academic and career readiness education program for older English learners in MCPS. Students in CREA+ are provided with opportunities to prepare for the GED exam, learn valuable work skills, and earn industry certifications. Students are referred to CREA if they are at least 18 years old and unlikely to meet all graduation requirements prior to turning 21 and if they are interested in pursuing an alternative pathway to a high school diploma via GED preparation.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Facility Characteristics of Schools 2026–2027

Schools	Year Facility Opened	Year Reopened/ Revitalized/ Maj. Cap. Proj.	Total Square Footage	Site Size Acres	Adjacent Park	Relocatable Classrooms*	County Programs
Thomas Edison HS of Tech.	1982	2018	171,527	28.2	Yes		
Blair G. Ewing Center	1970		85,400	22.5			
Lathrop E. Smith Center	1973		20,345	9.78	Yes	2	

*See Appendix H for relocatable use.

■ HOLDING SCHOOL FACILITIES

Holding facilities are utilized for capital projects, such as major capital projects and large-scale capital 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 has recently utilized the following facilities as holding schools for revitalization/expansion projects and large-scale capital projects. The use of the holding centers is currently TBD due to the three year delays in the elementary school replacement projects.

Elementary Holding Facilities

- Fairland
- Grosvenor
- North Lake
- Radnor

Secondary School Holding Facilities

- Charles W. Woodward (through school year 2026-2027)
- Current Thomas S. Wootton facility (beginning in school year 2027-2028)

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Expected Facility Use Schedule for Fiscal Years 2027–2032

Facility	School Year 2026–2027	School Year 2027–2028	School Year 2028–2029	School Year 2029–2030	School Year 2030–2031	School Year 2031–2032
Existing Burtonsville ES	TBD					
Emory Grove Center	Upcounty Early Childhood Center					
Grosvenor Center	TBD					
Radnor Center	TBD					
North Lake Center	Alt. Ed. Programs	TBD				
Fairland Center		Downcounty Alt Ed. Programs				
Spring Mill Center	Leased Tenants	TBD				
Woodward HS	Northwood HS	Woodward HS Reopens				
Existing Thomas S. Wootton HS (Secondary Holding School #1)	Thomas S. Wootton High School	Minor Modifications	Springbrook HS	Sherwood HS	TBD	

Facility Characteristics of Schools 2026–2027

Holding Facility	Level	Facility Address	Rooms	Total Square Footage	Site Size Acres	Relocatable Classrooms*
Emory Grove Center	Elementary	18100 Washington Grove Lane	22	45,002	10.17	
Fairland Center	Elementary	13313 Old Columbia Pike	26	45,082	9.21	
Grosvenor Center	Elementary	5701 Grosvenor Lane	19	36,770	10.21	
North Lake Center	Elementary	15101 Bauer Drive	22	40,378	9.66	
Radnor Center	Elementary	7000 Radnor Road	16	36,663	9.03	
Charles W. Woodward	High School	11211 Old Georgetown Road	106	315,080	27.75	

*See Appendix H for relocatable use