

WATKINS MILL CLUSTER

■ CLUSTER PLANNING ISSUE

The 2016 adopted Montgomery Village Master Plan is located within the service areas of the Watkins Mill Cluster schools and identifies a potential future elementary school site. New residential units will be created as property redevelopment occurs. The former golf course property is likely to redevelop for residential use in the near term. The lifecycle of the plan is approximately 20–30 years. In addition, in April 2023, The Lakeforest Mall site was approved for rezoning to mixed use for up to 1,600 dwelling units and 1.2 million square feet of non-residential development.

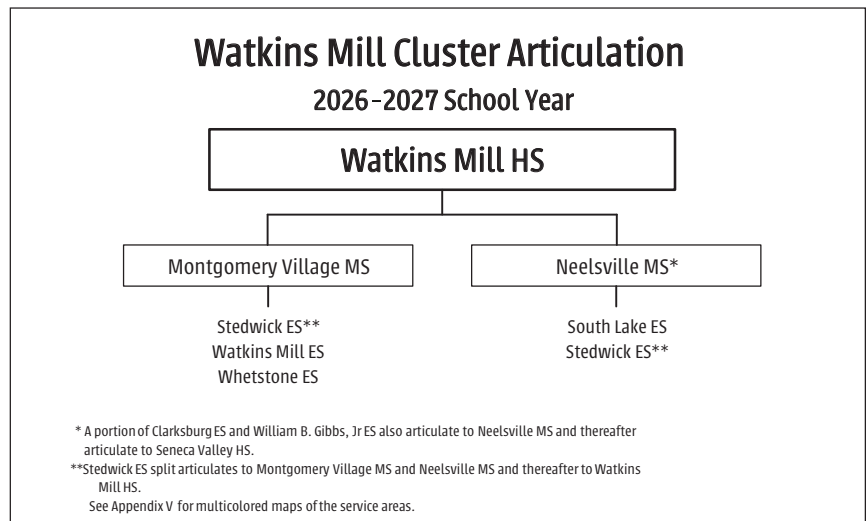
PLANNING ISSUE: On March 19, 2024, the Board of Education approved the boundary study scope to determine the service area for the new Crown High School and the expansion of Damascus High School. The scope of the boundary study included the following high schools: Winston Churchill, Clarksburg, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Richard Montgomery, Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley, Watkins Mill, and Thomas S. Wootton. The scope also included the following middle schools: John T. Baker, Cabin John, Roberto W. Clemente, Forest Oak, Robert Frost, Gaithersburg, Herbert Hoover, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Kingsview, Lakelands Park, Montgomery Village, Neelsville, John Poole, Ridgeview Rocky Hill, Hallie Wells, and Julius West. No elementary schools were included in the boundary study.

As part of the adopted FY 2025–2030 CIP, the approved completion date for the new Crown High School is August 2027. Due to fiscal constraints, the County Council shifted the expenditures for Damascus High School Major Capital Project to the out-years of the adopted FY 2025–2030 CIP with a “to be determined” completion date.

In the Adopted FY 2027–2032 CIP the completion date for the Damascus HS replacement is August 2031. On March 26, 2026 the Board of Education approved the boundaries with an implementation timeline beginning in the 2027–2028 school year. Based on declining enrollment a 27th high school is not needed to open at this time and the decision was that Thomas S. Wootton High School will be relocated to the Crown Farm facility site.

Information regarding this boundary study is available on the MCPS website at the following link: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/boundary-study

Due to declining enrollment the Board of Education on March 26, 2026 approved a study for consolidation and closure along with a countywide elementary school boundary study along with any impacted secondary schools for implementation in the 2029–2030 school year.



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Projected Enrollment and Space Availability

Effects of the Superintendent's Recommended FY 2028 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2027-2032 Capital Improvements Program

Schools		Prelim.	Projections										
		26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34	34-35	35-36	36-37	41-42
Watkins Mill HS	Program Capacity	1847	1847	1847	1847	1847	1847	1847	1847	1847	1847	1847	1847
	Enrollment	1487	1572	1496	1393	1403	1404	1385	1361	1326	1294	1267	1267
	Available Space	360	275	351	454	444	443	462	486	521	553	580	580
	Comments		See Text										
Montgomery Village MS	Program Capacity	842	842	842	842	842	842	842	842	842	842	842	842
	Enrollment	743	767	759	720	695	682	666	659	662	660	655	655
	Available Space	99	75	83	122	147	160	176	183	180	182	187	187
	Comments	See Text											
Neelsville MS	Program Capacity	956	956	956	956	956	956	956	956	956	956	956	956
	Enrollment	796	806	777	758	730	716	697	691	693	690	686	686
	Available Space	160	150	179	198	226	240	259	265	263	266	270	270
	Comments	See Text											
South Lake ES	Program Capacity	782	782	782	782	782	782	782	782	782	782	782	
	Enrollment	662	676	646	609	575	577	583	579	570	569	564	
	Available Space	120	106	136	173	207	205	199	203	212	213	218	
	Comments	See Text											
Stedwick ES	Program Capacity	640	640	640	640	640	640	640	640	640	640	640	
	Enrollment	486	489	487	487	480	479	469	467	459	458	456	
	Available Space	154	151	153	153	160	161	171	173	181	182	184	
	Comments	See Text											
Watkins Mill ES	Program Capacity	712	712	712	712	712	712	712	712	712	712	712	
	Enrollment	675	664	664	647	632	615	628	624	615	614	611	
	Available Space	37	48	48	65	80	97	84	88	97	98	101	
	Comments	See Text											
Whetstone ES	Program Capacity	762	762	762	762	762	762	762	762	762	762	762	
	Enrollment	683	675	668	655	643	645	648	646	637	635	632	
	Available Space	79	87	94	107	119	117	114	116	125	127	130	
	Comments	See Text											
Cluster Information	HS Utilization	81%	85%	81%	75%	76%	76%	75%	74%	72%	70%	69%	69%
	HS Enrollment	1487	1572	1496	1393	1403	1404	1385	1361	1326	1294	1267	1267
	MS Utilization	86%	87%	85%	82%	79%	78%	76%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%
	MS Enrollment	1539	1573	1536	1478	1425	1398	1363	1350	1355	1350	1341	
	ES Utilization	87%	86%	85%	83%	80%	80%	80%	80%	79%	79%	78%	
	ES Enrollment	2506	2504	2465	2398	2330	2316	2328	2316	2281	2276	2263	

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Demographic Characteristics of Schools

Schools	2026-2027						2025-2026		
	Total Enrollment	Two or more races %	Black or Afr. Amer. %	Asian%	Hispanic %	White %	FARMS%*	ELD%*	Mobility Rate%***
Watkins Mill HS	1487	2.3%	24.5%	8.9%	58.8%	5.3%	48.8%	32.9%	28.7%
Montgomery Village MS	743	2.4%	22.1%	6.9%	64.6%	3.6%	56.5%	38.7%	18.8%
Neelsville MS	796	4.8%	29.0%	15.3%	42.6%	7.9%	52.4%	23.2%	14.6%
South Lake ES	662	2.0%	18.6%	6.9%	70.5%	2.0%	65.7%	57.9%	20.7%
Stedwick ES	486	4.7%	30.7%	6.4%	51.2%	6.8%	54.0%	30.0%	21.5%
Watkins Mill ES	675	2.1%	16.3%	6.8%	71.9%	3.0%	57.5%	57.6%	31.6%
Whetstone ES	683	3.4%	24.2%	6.0%	61.5%	4.5%	52.8%	40.4%	16.8%
Elementary Cluster Total	2506	2.9%	21.8%	6.5%	64.7%	3.9%	60.7%	50.4%	17.8%
Elementary County Total	67343	6.3%	21.7%	12.8%	36.0%	23.0%	41.6%	25.5%	14.1%

*Percent of students approved for Free and Reduced-priced Meals Program (FARMS) during the 2025–2026 school year.

**Percent of English Language Development students (ELD) during the 2025–2026 school year. High School students are served in regional ELD centers.

***Mobility Rate is the number of entries plus withdrawals during the 2025–2026 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 2026–2027)

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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
Watkins Mill HS	1989		305,288	50.99	Yes		HSWC
Montgomery Village MS	1968	2003	141,615	15.1			
Neelsville MS	1981	2024	162,684	29.19			
South Lake ES	1972	2023	113,549	10.2			SBHC
Stedwick ES	1974		109,677	10			
Watkins Mill ES	1970		82,939	10	Yes	4	
Whetstone ES	1968		96,946	8.8	Yes		

*See Appendix H for relocatable use.