

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 Operations in lieu of expulsion. 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. 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.

Beginning in 2018–2019 school year, Alternative Education Programs expanded to 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: The county continues to explore distributed alternative education delivery models for the county. As these programs are finalized, a plan will be developed for this facility and considered in a future CIP.

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 temporarily housed at the Emory Grove Center in Gaithersburg serving 80 Prekindergarten-eligible and 20 Pre-K Plus eligible four-year-olds in an inclusive setting. The Up-County Early Childhood Center will be temporarily located at Watkins Mill High School in January 2022.

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 office, and the site at which 12,000 MCPS middle school students and elementary school students attend the Grade 6 Residential Program (Outdoor Ed) and Day Program, respectively. OEEP goals 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. Half of those students experience 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 creates a meaningful watershed environmental experience for each Grade 6 student, and culminates in an environmental student service-learning project. 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 Day Program primarily serves students in Grades K–5: 6,000 students participate at the Smith Center and 6,000 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 also is 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.

Career Technology Education Programs

Career and Technology Education (CTE) Programs of Study (POS) prepare students for college, careers, and lifelong learning. MCPS currently offers the Apprenticeship Maryland Program, College/Career Research Development, and 51 POS organized within the following 11 career clusters:

- Arts, Media, and Communications;
- Business Management and Finance;
- Construction and Development;
- Consumer Services, Hospitality, and Tourism;
- Education, Training, and Child Studies;

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- Environmental, Agriculture, and Natural Resources;
- Health Professions and Biosciences;
- Information Technology;
- Law, Government, Public Safety, and Administration;
- Manufacturing and Engineering; and
- Transportation Technologies.

In the 2021–2022 school year, programs were added to include two innovative career opportunities: the Biomedicine Health Care Profession pathway and the Mobile Apps and Software Development (Apple) computer science pathway. On average, over 16,000 MCPS students enroll annually in at least one CTE POS pathway course at a comprehensive high school. In addition, the Wheaton High School and Thomas Edison High School of Technology (TEHST) in Wheaton, as well as the Seneca Valley High School (SVHS) in Germantown, are new 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 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. 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, 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, CTE 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 Foundations Office is a liaison between MCPS, business, professional, and post-secondary communities. The office supervises numerous Programs of Study (POS) within MCPS. These collaborative programs entice student participation by offering state-of-the-art equipment, rigorous and captivating curriculums, authentic professional experiences, and experienced instructors who participate in pertinent professional development activities. The Foundations Office manages four separate non-profit foundations, computer science and information technology programs, STEM and CTE related programs, aviation pathways, and the Career Readiness and Education Academy (CREA).

Foundations programs include automotive (ATF), construction (CTF), information technology (ITF), and hospitality and restaurant management (FHRM) pathways 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 collision repair programs. The CTF operates a design/build business where students construct a single-family home with skills learned in architecture, carpentry, electricity, plumbing, masonry, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC). The ITF runs a computer refurbishing business, using skills from the Network Operations program. The FHRM students run a gala event where students perform in all aspects of the culinary and hospitality experiences, which include hosting, cooking, and serving many patrons. All Foundations program students have opportunities to earn industry credentials, workforce skills, articulated college credits, and advanced placement with local colleges. The local business partnerships ensure that all stakeholders monitor and invest their resources to promote effective and relevant career 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

Facility Characteristics of Schools 2022–2023

Schools	Year Facility Opened	Year Reopened/ Revitalized	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			20,345	9.78	Yes		

**Relocatables on site to address overutilization*

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Technology (P-TECH). Most of these technology programs are available in every high school, most middle schools, and are aligned with national partners and/or academies. Seneca Valley High School and Thomas Edison High School of Technology offer a senior capstone course to complete the Computer Science/Code.org POS, to prepare students for a rewarding career in the Cybersecurity industry. The P-TECH program at Clarksburg High School is a STEM dual-enrollment opportunity, culminating with students simultaneously earn an A.A.S. degree from Montgomery College and graduate MCPS with a high school diploma.

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 school principal, but supported by the Foundations Office, is a full day program or evening program. CREA students participate in career pathway courses in the construction, automotive, hospitality and restaurant management, and child development fields. Academic classes to improve mathematics and literacy skills also are included in preparation for the GED.

Many STEM-related CTE programs including, the Aviation program, also are under the umbrella of the 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 Col. Zadok Magruder High School to earn a pilot's license or an unmanned aircraft certification. Furthermore, the Foundations Office has been influential in the Seneca Valley High School (SVHS) expansion to become the Up-county Career Center. The updated SVHS offers Foundations Office programs such as Automotive Technology and Dealership Training, Construction Trades programs, Network Operations, Cisco Academy, and the AOIT offerings of Programming, Networking, and Information Resource Design. The expansion of these programs to SVHS ensures equitable access of Foundations programming to all MCPS students.

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

Thomas Edison High School of Technology

Students enrolled in all MCPS comprehensive high schools may apply for one of 16 career readiness programs at the Thomas Edison High School of Technology. 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.

At the start of the 2018 school year, all MCPS Grade 7 students will participate in the Junior Finance Park financial literacy

curriculum and culminating field trip to the new 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.

At the start of the 2019 school year, Edison introduced a full-day Career Readiness Education Academy for English Learners that are 18 years of age or older and their school records indicate they will not meet the requirements to graduate on time with a high school diploma. Therefore, students in the CREA program spend their day developing their literacy and mathematics skills necessary to work toward earning their GED and an industry certification. MCPS offers an evening CREA program in the Edison building (or on Zoom as is the current situation), an evening Career Readiness Education Academy for English Learners that work during the day, so they are able attend Edison four evenings per week, two evenings focus on developing the academic skills to work toward passing the GED and two evenings focus on working toward earning an industry certification.

Starting in August 2020, students in MCPS will have two ways they will be able to access the career readiness programs at Thomas Edison High School of Technology. The first option will be the traditional pathway of enrolling as a student in Grades 11 or 12 (with the exception of the cosmetology program, for which students enroll in 10th grade) and accessing one of 16 career readiness programs through the traditional part-time model, while still being a student at their home high school. The second option will be for students in Grade 8 to select the Wheaton High School and Thomas Edison High School of Technology partnership option and enroll into one of four career readiness pathways that will allow for earlier and direct access into Thomas Edison High School of Technology. Students from the following clusters will be able to apply to the Wheaton Edison Partnership: Bethesda Chevy-Chase, Winston Churchill, Walter Johnson, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Sherwood, Walt Whitman, Thomas S. Wootton, Northeast Consortium and Downcounty Consortium.

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Holding Facilities

Holding facilities are utilized for capital projects, such as major capital 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



Thomas Edison High School of Technology

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Holding Facility Schedule

Holding Facility	SY 22-23	SY 23-24	SY 24-25	SY 25-26	SY 26-27	SY 27-28
Emory Grove Center	South Lake ES					
Fairland Center	Burnt Mills ES					
Grosvenor Center	Woodlin ES					
North Lake Center	Stonegate ES					
Radnor Center						

Facility Characteristics of Schools 2022-2023

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	29
Fairland Center	Elementary	13313 Old Columbia Pike	26	45,082	9.21	10
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	11

