

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 Lake Forest 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. Additional information on the two plans can be found at the following weblinks: <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/midcounty/montgomery-village/> and <https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/government/projects-in-the-city/lakeforest-mall-rezoning>.

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 includes 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 includes 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 are 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. Information regarding this boundary study is available on the MCPS website at the following link: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/crowndamascusboundarystudy/>

as part of the FY 2021–2026 CIP, the County Council delayed the expenditures and completion date to August 2026. An FY 2023 appropriation was requested for construction cost increases and for construction funds. Due to fiscal constraints, the County Council, in the adopted FY2023–2028 CIP, delayed the completion date by one year, but approved the additional expenditures. An FY 2024 appropriation was approved for construction funds. 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 II for this project which will include the construction of the auditorium. The build out of the shell, the outside structure, of the auditorium is part of the Phase I construction. Funding to construct the fit-out of the auditorium, Phase II, will be considered in the next CIP budget cycle. An FY 2025 appropriation was approved for the balance of funding. This new high school is scheduled to be completed August 2027.

Watkins Mill High School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Issues

Montgomery Village Middle School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Issues

Neelsville Middle School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Issues

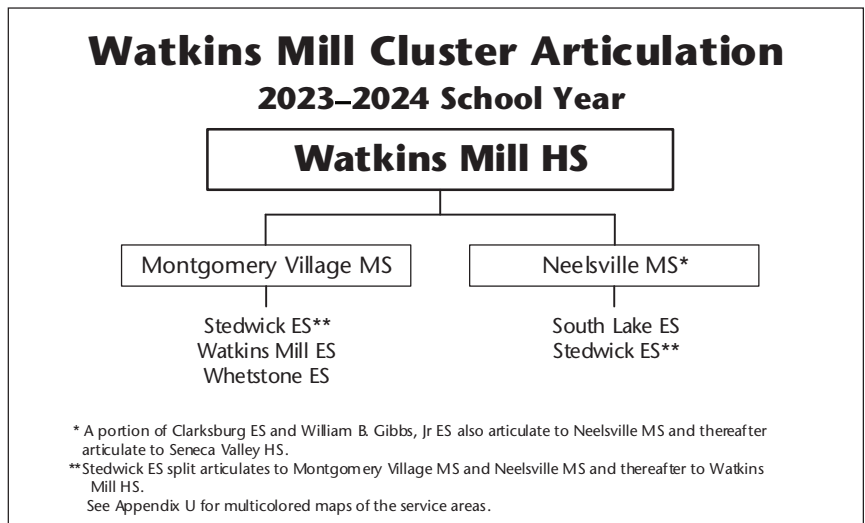
Capital Project: A major capital project is planned for this school to address various building systems and programmatic needs for this school. An FY 2021 appropriation was approved for planning funds to begin the architectural design of this major capital project. An FY 2022 appropriation was approved to begin the construction. An FY 2023 appropriation was approved for construction cost increases and the balance of construction funds. This project is scheduled to be completed August 2024.

SCHOOLS

Crown High School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

Capital Project: Expenditures are programmed in the six-year period to open a new high school on the Crown Farm site to address overutilization in the mid-county region. Although an FY 2019 appropriation for planning was requested by the Board of Education for this new school, the County Council delayed the funds by one year. An FY 2020 appropriation was approved for planning to begin the architectural design for this project with a completion date of August 2025. However,



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Whetstone Elementary School

Capital Project: As part of the adopted FY 2023–2028 CIP, this school was approved for a feasibility study for a major capital project. The Key Facilities Indicators (KFI) were utilized to identify schools for possible major capital projects. The scope for the project will be identified based on the individual building system and programmatic and capacity needs for each school. An FY 2025 appropriation was approved to begin the planning and design for this project. Due to fiscal constraints, the County Council shifted construction placeholder 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.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Crown HS	New School	Approved	August 2027
Neelsville MS	Major capital project	Approved	August 2024
Whetstone ES	Major Capital Project	Approved	TBD

Approved—Project has an approved FY 2025 appropriation in the FY 2025–2030 CIP for planning or construction funds.

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.

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Projected Enrollment and Space Availability Effects of the Adopted FY 2025–2030 CIP and Non-Capital Actions

Schools			Actual	Projections							
			23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	2033	2038
Watkins Mill HS	Program Capacity		1899	1899	1899	1899	1899	1899	1899	1899	1899
	Enrollment		1662	1641	1668	1670	1703	1715	1730	1800	1800
	Available Space		237	258	231	229	196	184	169	99	99
	Comments		See Text								
Crown HS	Program Capacity						2219	2219	2219	2219	2219
	Enrollment						0	0	0	0	0
	Available Space						2219	2219	2219	2219	2219
	Comments		See Text				Opens				
Montgomery Village MS	Program Capacity		857	857	857	857	857	857	857	857	857
	Enrollment		807	832	845	860	875	882	888	850	850
	Available Space		50	25	12	(3)	(18)	(25)	(31)	7	7
	Comments		See Text								
Neelsville MS	Program Capacity		965	956	956	956	956	956	956	956	956
	Enrollment		782	806	807	830	845	850	855	940	940
	Available Space		183	150	149	126	111	106	101	16	16
	Comments		See Text	Maj. Cap. Project Complete							
South Lake ES	Program Capacity	CSR	778	778	778	778	778	778	778		
	Enrollment		780	771	765	778	769	786	777		
	Available Space		(2)	7	13	0	9	(8)	1		
	Comments		Maj. Cap. Project Complete								
Stedwick ES	Program Capacity	CSR	687	687	687	687	687	687	687		
	Enrollment		512	534	489	491	492	480	488		
	Available Space		175	153	198	196	195	207	199		
	Comments										
Watkins Mill ES	Program Capacity	CSR	717	717	717	717	717	717	717		
	Enrollment		716	709	728	737	727	732	727		
	Available Space		1	8	(11)	(20)	(10)	(15)	(10)		
	Comments										
Whetstone ES	Program Capacity	CSR	775	775	775	775	775	775	775		
	Enrollment		718	761	733	719	726	724	725		
	Available Space		57	14	42	56	49	51	50		
	Comments			Planning for MCP							
Cluster Information	HS Utilization		88%	86%	88%	88%	90%	90%	91%	95%	95%
	HS Enrollment		1662	1641	1668	1670	1703	1715	1730	1800	1800
	MS Utilization		87%	90%	91%	93%	95%	96%	96%	99%	99%
	MS Enrollment		1589	1638	1652	1690	1720	1732	1743	1790	1790
	ES Utilization		92%	94%	92%	92%	92%	92%	92%		
ES Enrollment		2726	2775	2715	2725	2714	2722	2717			

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Demographic Characteristics of Schools

Schools	2023-2024								2022-2023
	Total Enrollment	Two or more races %	Black or Afr. Amer. %	Asian%	Hispanic %	White %	FARMS%*	ELD%**	Mobility Rate%***
Watkins Mill HS	1662	2.2%	23.9%	8.1%	59.7%	5.7%	53.2%	31.2%	23.2%
Montgomery Village MS	807	2.9%	23.4%	8.2%	61.7%	3.7%	59.2%	37.7%	23.2%
Neelsville MS	782	4.1%	26.7%	13.9%	47.6%	7.3%	57.3%	29.3%	17.4%
South Lake ES	780	1.8%	18.8%	4.1%	73.7%	1.2%	67.8%	56.3%	27.4%
Stedwick ES	512	4.9%	31.1%	5.9%	50.2%	7.0%	58.8%	31.8%	23.1%
Watkins Mill ES	716	3.4%	16.6%	6.3%	70.3%	3.1%	62.8%	55.6%	33.3%
Whetstone ES	718	3.5%	24.8%	9.1%	55.0%	7.1%	54.0%	39.3%	26.3%
Elementary Cluster Total	2726	3.2%	22.1%	6.3%	63.5%	4.3%	61.2%	47.0%	27.9%
Elementary County Total	72103	5.5%	21.4%	13.2%	36.1%	23.4%	40.3%	25.5%	17.5%

*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 2022–2023 school year compared to average daily 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 2023–2024)

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	GT/LD @13	PD @7	PEP@6	PEP@12	PEP @18	VISION (Elementary) @7										
Watkins Mill HS	9-12	1899	91		78											3		2																							
Montgomery Village MS	6-8	857	46		36											3		3																							
Neelsville MS	6-8	965	47		43																																				
South Lake ES	HS-5	778	43	5		18	12	1		1	6																														
Stedwick ES	PreK-5	687	39	5		17	8		1		4					4																									
Watkins Mill ES	HS-5	717	41	5		13	14	1		1	7																														
Whetstone ES	PreK-5	775	43	5		15	12		1		6																													1	3

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Facility Characteristics of Schools 2023–2024

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		131,432	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.