

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 Appeals and Transfer 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 because of their involvement with controlled substances, serious bodily injury, and/or weapons.

During the 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. This school year, Alternative Education Programs moved the Cloverleaf site to the Avery Road campus. Plum Orchard operated out of the Silver Spring site for the 2024–2025 school year, but will be temporarily relocated to the North Lake Center until a permanent solution is decided. This relocation will start in the 2025–2026 school year.

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 impacted 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, 68 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 fostering early literacy and mathematics skills as well as increasing social interactions, building oral language skills, and nurturing vocabulary development.

Two early childhood centers are regionally situated in MCPS, each serving 100 four-year-old students including those with disabilities in a comprehensive, high quality, full-day program focused on inclusive early childhood education. The MacDonald Knolls Early Childhood Center is co-located with a community-based childcare partner in Silver Spring. The Up County Early

Childhood Center in Gaithersburg is temporarily housed at the Emory Grove Center.

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 one of the sites 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, 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 creates a meaningful watershed environmental experience for each Grade 6 student that includes action to 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 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. Both the Smith and Kingsley Centers serve as workplace learning sites for students in several MCPS special programs.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs of Study (POS) prepare students for college, careers, and lifelong learning. MCPS currently offers 51 POS organized within the following 12 career clusters:

- Arts, Media, and Communications;

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- Business Management and Finance;
- Career Research and Development;
- Construction and Development;
- Consumer Services, Hospitality, and Tourism;
- Education, Training, and Child Studies;
- 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 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 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 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 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 workbased 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), computer science and 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) programs. The ITF runs a computer refurbishing business, using skills from the Network Operations program. The FHRM students run internship experiences 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.

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
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	2	

*See Appendix H for relocatable use.

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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 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. Through the creation of the Aviation program, 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. Additionally, Foundations has collaborated to complete a full renovation of the Hospitality program during FY 23. Finally, working collaboratively with the Division of New Construction on the replacement/ renovation of Damascus HS, Foundations will ensure that the Automotive, IT/Computer Science, and hospitality spaces are in alignment with industry standards.

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 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. There are several dual enrollment

opportunities offered at Edison for students that enhance their CTE program of student.

Since August 2020, students in MCPS have had two ways they to access the career readiness programs at Thomas Edison High School of Technology. The first option offers 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 is 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 are 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.

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 Career Readiness Education Academy for English Learners is led by the Foundations Office. Edison has a day program that provides GED and CTE instruction for a student population 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.

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.

Holding Facilities

- Emory Grove
- Fairland
- Grosvenor
- North Lake
- Radnor

Temporary Secondary School Holding Facility

- Charles W. Woodward

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Holding Facility Schedule

Holding Facility	SY 24–25	SY 25–26	SY 26–27	SY 27–28	SY 28–29	SY 29–30
Emory Grove Center						
Fairland Center	JoAnn Leleck at Broad Acres ES					
Grosvenor Center		Highland View ES				
North Lake Center						
Radnor Center						
Woodward HS	Northwood HS					

Facility Characteristics of Schools 2024–2025

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	31
Fairland Center	Elementary	13313 Old Columbia Pike	26	45,082	9.21	23
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	
Charles W. Woodward	High School	11211 Old Georgetown Road	106	315,080	27.75	

*See Appendix H for relocatable use