

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 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: 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 FY 2023–2028 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 FY 2025–2030 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. An FY 2025 appropriation was approved for the balance of funding and to build out the outside structure of the auditorium. An FY 2026 appropriation and amendment to the FY 2025–2030 CIP was approved to complete Phase II, the interior fit-out of the auditorium, teaching spaces, and upgrade site amenities. 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

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

SCHOOLS

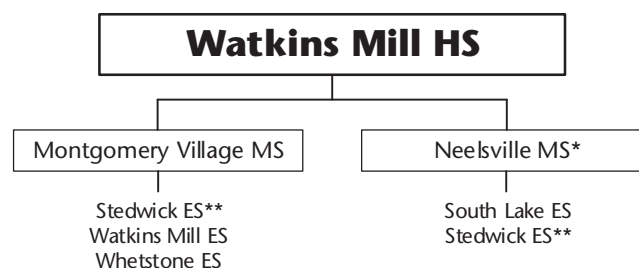
Crown High School

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,

Watkins Mill Cluster Articulation

2024–2025 School Year



* A portion of Clarksburg ES and William B. Gibbs, Jr ES also articulate to Neelsville MS and thereafter articulate to Seneca Valley HS.

** Stedwick ES split articulates to Montgomery Village MS and Neelsville MS and thereafter to Watkins Mill HS.
See Appendix V for multicolored maps of the service areas.

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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 FY 2025–2030 CIP. Once planning is complete, construction funds, along with a completion date, will be considered in a future CIP. It was approved that a portion of the out-year placeholder expenditures for this project be reallocated to other CIP projects in order to keep them on their approved schedules.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Crown HS	New School	Approved	August 2027
Whetstone ES	Major Capital Project	Proposed	TBD

Approved—Project has an approved FY 2026 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 Amended CIP and Non-Capital Actions

Schools			Official	Projections							
			24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	2034	2039
Watkins Mill HS		Program Capacity	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831
		Enrollment	1577	1591	1547	1554	1572	1584	1613	1650	1650
		Available Space	254	240	284	277	259	247	218	181	181
		Comments	See Text								
Crown HS		Program Capacity				2219	2219	2219	2219	2219	2219
		Enrollment				0	0	0	0	0	0
		Available Space				2219	2219	2219	2219	2219	2219
		Comments	See Text			Opens					
Montgomery Village MS		Program Capacity	857	857	857	857	857	857	857	857	857
		Enrollment	780	794	785	814	816	817	803	825	825
		Available Space	77	63	72	43	41	40	54	32	32
		Comments	See Text								
Neelsville MS		Program Capacity	956	956	956	956	956	956	956	956	956
		Enrollment	781	772	793	801	804	804	789	800	800
		Available Space	175	184	163	155	152	152	167	156	156
		Comments	MCP Complete See Text								
South Lake ES	CSR	Program Capacity	778	778	778	778	778	778	778		
		Enrollment	746	711	714	691	695	685	690		
		Available Space	32	67	64	87	83	93	88		
		Comments									
Stedwick ES	CSR	Program Capacity	674	674	674	674	674	674	674		
		Enrollment	492	469	463	461	456	466	459		
		Available Space	182	205	211	213	218	208	215		
		Comments									
Watkins Mill ES	CSR	Program Capacity	719	719	696	696	696	696	696		
		Enrollment	734	728	728	725	730	724	719		
		Available Space	(15)	(9)	(32)	(29)	(34)	(28)	(23)		
		Comments									
Whetstone ES	CSR	Program Capacity	780	780	780	780	780	780	780		
		Enrollment	711	717	714	721	725	728	726		
		Available Space	69	63	66	59	55	52	54		
		Comments	See Text								
Cluster Information		HS Utilization	86%	87%	84%	85%	86%	87%	88%	90%	90%
		HS Enrollment	1577	1591	1547	1554	1572	1584	1613	1650	1650
		MS Utilization	86%	86%	87%	89%	89%	89%	88%	90%	90%
		MS Enrollment	1561	1566	1578	1615	1620	1621	1592	1625	1625
		ES Utilization	91%	89%	89%	89%	89%	89%	89%		
		ES Enrollment	2683	2625	2619	2598	2606	2603	2594		

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Demographic Characteristics of Schools

Schools	2024-2025								2023-2024
	Total Enrollment	Two or more races %	Black or Afr. Amer. %	Asian%	Hispanic %	White %	FARMS%*	ELD%**	Mobility Rate%***
Watkins Mill HS	1577	2.7%	22.5%	8.2%	60.6%	5.5%	51.7%	32.7%	38.7%
Montgomery Village MS	780	2.9%	21.9%	5.5%	65.9%	3.5%	59.2%	39.9%	19.6%
Neelsville MS	781	3.6%	29.4%	15.9%	43.8%	6.9%	55.1%	26.4%	18.0%
South Lake ES	746	2.0%	17.3%	4.3%	74.7%	1.3%	66.1%	59.9%	40.6%
Stedwick ES	492	4.1%	31.1%	6.5%	51.8%	6.1%	59.6%	33.5%	24.8%
Watkins Mill ES	734	2.2%	13.6%	6.1%	74.9%	2.7%	60.1%	57.9%	33.9%
Whetstone ES	711	3.1%	25.7%	7.9%	57.1%	5.9%	56.3%	41.8%	25.5%
Elementary Cluster Total	2683	2.7%	21.1%	6.1%	65.9%	3.8%	60.6%	49.7%	24.2%
Elementary County Total	71259	5.7%	21.2%	13.0%	36.6%	23.2%	41.8%	25.8%	16.2%

*Percent of students approved for Free and Reduced-priced Meals Program (FARMS) during the 2024–2025 school year.

**Percent of English Language Development students (ELD) during the 2024–2025 school year. High School students are served in regional ELD centers.

***Mobility Rate is the number of entries plus withdrawals during the 2023–2024 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 2024–2025)

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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
Watkins Mill HS	1989		305,288	50.99	Yes		HSWC
Montgomery Village MS	1968	2003	141,615	15.1			
Neelsville MS	1981		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.