

## OTHER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

### ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Montgomery County Public Schools operates an Alternative 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. 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. Providing students regional access to alternative learning and programming better serves student needs, reduces bus times, and provides for better learning outcomes.

Alternative Education Programs serves students in two locations in Rockville: Avery Road and the North Lake Center. It is anticipated that the North Lake Center site will be used until June 2027 at which time the program will relocate to the Fairland Center.

**Capital Project:** A recommendation to renovate the Spring Mill Center for Downcounty Alternative Education Programs to open in August 2029. However the County Council delayed this project by three years, shifting the completion date to August 2032.

### 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 housed at the Emory Grove Center in Gaithersburg serving approximately 90 Prekindergarten-eligible and 20 Pre-K Plus eligible four-year-olds in an inclusive setting.

### 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 TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs of Study (POS) prepares students for both postsecondary education and the workforce by providing hands-on, industry-aligned experiences and developing both academic and essential skills such as communication and teamwork. CTE POS equip students with the specific technical knowledge and practical skills needed to thrive in a variety of high-demand career fields, leading to industry certifications, college credit, and valuable work-based learning opportunities. MCPS currently offers 51 POS organized within the following 12 career clusters:

- Arts, Media, and Communications;
- Business Management and Finance
- Construction and Development

## OTHER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

- Consumer Services, Hospitality, and Tourism
- Education, Training, and Child Studies
- Environmental, Agriculture, and Natural Resources
- Health Professions and Biosciences
- Information Technology and Computer Science
- Law, Government, Public Safety, and Administration
- Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology
- Transportation Technologies
- Apprenticeship Maryland Program

On average, approximately 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 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 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. 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, 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 credentials. 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), 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.

The Foundations Office also manages all computer science programs within MCPS, which includes Code.org/Computer Science, the Academy of Information Technology, Cisco

## Facility Characteristics of Schools 2025–2026

| 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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## OTHER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

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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.

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, 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.

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.

### HOLDING SCHOOL FACILITIES

Holding facilities are utilized for capital projects, such as major capital projects and large-scale capital 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 has recently utilized the following facilities as holding schools for revitalization/expansion projects and large-scale capital projects. The use of the holding centers is currently TBD due to the three year delays in the elementary school replacement projects.

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## OTHER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

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### Elementary Holding Facilities

- Fairland
- Grosvenor
- North Lake
- Radnor

### Secondary School Holding Facilities

- Charles W. Woodward (through school year 2026-2027)
- Current Thomas S. Wootton facility (beginning in school year 2027-2028)

## OTHER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

### Expected Facility Use Schedule for Fiscal Years 2027–2032

| Facility           | School Year<br>2025–2026        | School Year<br>2026–2027 | School Year<br>2027–2028                  | School Year<br>2028–2029 | School Year<br>2029–2030 | School Year<br>2030–2031 | School Year<br>2031–2032 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Emory Grove Center | Upcounty Early Childhood Center |                          |                                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |
| Grosvenor Center   | Future Use TBD                  |                          |                                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |
| Radnor Center      | Future Use TBD                  |                          |                                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |
| North Lake Center  | Downcounty Alt. Ed. Programs    |                          | Future Use TBD                            |                          |                          |                          |                          |
| Fairland Center    | Leleck ES @BA                   | Vacant                   | Downcounty Alternative Education Programs |                          |                          |                          |                          |
| Woodward HS        | Northwood HS                    |                          | Woodward HS Reopens                       |                          |                          |                          |                          |

### Facility Characteristics of Schools 2025–2026

| 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           |                         |
| Fairland Center     | Elementary  | 13313 Old Columbia Pike     | 26    | 45,082               | 9.21            | 24                      |
| 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