

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 Lakeforest 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.

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 included 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 included 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 were 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.

In the Adopted FY 2027–2032 CIP the completion date for the Damascus HS replacement is August 2031. On March 26, 2026 the Board of Education approved the boundaries with an implementation timeline beginning in the 2027-2028 school year. Based on declining enrollment a 27th high school is not needed to open at this time and the decision was that Thomas S. Wootton High School will be relocated to the Crown Farm facility site.

Information regarding this boundary study is available on the MCPS website at the following link: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/boundary-study

Due to declining enrollment the Board of Education on March 26, 2026 approved a study for consolidation and closure along with a countywide elementary school boundary study along with any impacted middle schools for implementation in the 2029-2030 school year.

SCHOOLS

Watkins Mill High School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Issues

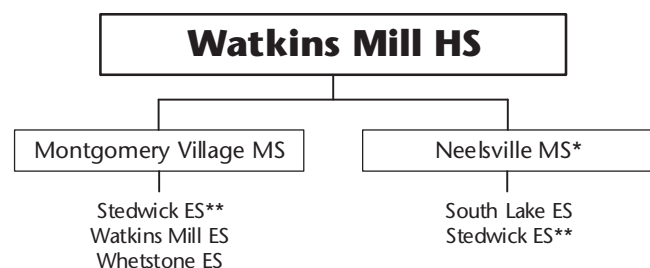
Montgomery Village Middle School

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. Based on the ranking with the new CIP prioritization criteria this school will be considered for a major capital project in a future CIP.

Watkins Mill Cluster Articulation 2025–2026 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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Projected Enrollment and Space Availability

Effects of the Adopted FY2027 Capital Budget and the FY2027-2032 Capital Improvements Program

Schools			Official	Projections							
			25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	2035	2040
Watkins Mill HS		Program Capacity	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831
		Enrollment	1551	1529	1599	1588	1572	1584	1570	1600	1600
		Available Space	280	302	232	243	259	247	261	231	231
		Comments	See Text								
Montgomery Village MS		Program Capacity	857	857	857	857	857	857	857	857	857
		Enrollment	754	752	738	738	732	705	704	705	705
		Available Space	103	105	119	119	125	152	153	152	152
		Comments	See Text								
Neelsville MS		Program Capacity	956	956	956	956	956	956	956	956	956
		Enrollment	759	768	798	796	792	770	781	790	790
		Available Space	197	188	158	160	164	186	175	166	166
		Comments	See Text								
South Lake ES	CSR	Program Capacity	768	768	768	768	768	768	768		
		Enrollment	689	660	643	663	637	633	637		
		Available Space	79	108	125	105	131	135	131		
		Comments									
Stedwick ES	CSR	Program Capacity	666	666	666	666	666	666	666		
		Enrollment	480	466	466	454	454	442	441		
		Available Space	186	200	200	212	212	224	225		
		Comments									
Watkins Mill ES	CSR	Program Capacity	722	722	722	722	722	722	722		
		Enrollment	729	752	751	748	736	732	722		
		Available Space	(7)	(30)	(29)	(26)	(14)	(10)	0		
		Comments									
Whetstone ES	CSR	Program Capacity	735	735	735	735	735	735	735		
		Enrollment	741	728	727	709	694	680	684		
		Available Space	(6)	7	8	26	41	55	51		
		Comments									
Cluster Information		HS Utilization	85%	84%	87%	87%	86%	87%	86%	87%	87%
		HS Enrollment	1551	1529	1599	1588	1572	1584	1570	1600	1600
		MS Utilization	83%	84%	85%	85%	84%	81%	82%	82%	82%
		MS Enrollment	1513	1520	1536	1534	1524	1475	1485	1495	1495
		ES Utilization	91%	90%	89%	89%	87%	86%	86%		
		ES Enrollment	2639	2606	2587	2574	2521	2487	2484		

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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
Watkins Mill HS	1989		305,288	50.99	Yes		HSWC
Montgomery Village MS	1968	2003	141,615	15.1			
Neelsville MS	1981	2024	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.*