

The County Council Approved FY 2027 Capital Budget and the FY 2027–2032 Capital Improvements Program



Published by:

the Department of Materials Management

for the Office of Facilities Management and the Division of Capital Planning and Real Estate

45 West Gude Drive, Suite 4100

Rockville, Maryland 20850

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning>



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Unleashing Potential

15 West Gude Drive ♦ Suite 100 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

June 30, 2026

Dear Residents:

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Educational Facilities Master Plan reviews the issues that influenced the development and adoption of the FY 2027 Capital Budget and the FY 2027–2032 Capital Improvements Program (CIP). More importantly, it reflects an important transition for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) as we begin shifting from a school system that spent decades responding to rapid enrollment growth to one that must strategically preserve, renew, and maximize the use of the facilities we already have.

Throughout the past year, we have shared an honest assessment of the challenges facing our school system. For many years, MCPS prioritized constructing additions and new schools to accommodate growing enrollment. While those investments were necessary, they often came at the expense of renewing and replacing aging infrastructure. Today, many of our schools require significant investments in heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems; roofs; plumbing and electrical systems; accessibility improvements; and other essential building components. We also recognize that addressing years of deferred investment cannot be accomplished in a single six-year plan and will require sustained investments spanning multiple CIP cycles.

On May 21, 2026, the Montgomery County Council took final action on the FY 2027 Capital Budget and the FY 2027–2032 Capital Improvements Program. The approved six-year CIP totals \$1.854 billion, approximately \$99 million more than the previously approved CIP. While this investment represents important progress, it is significantly less than the Board of Education's \$2.78 billion request and reinforces the reality that additional investments will be necessary in future CIP cycles to fully address the needs of our facilities and operational infrastructure.

This year's CIP reflects a deliberate change in strategy. As MCPS experiences declining enrollment for the first time in more than 40 years, our focus is shifting from primarily creating new capacity to preserving and modernizing existing facilities, maximizing the use of our current buildings, and making thoughtful decisions that position MCPS for long-term sustainability.

The approved CIP advances several significant school projects that will benefit students and communities throughout Montgomery County. Projects remaining on schedule include: the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School in August 2027; replacement projects at Northwood High School in August 2027; Burtonsville Elementary School and JoAnn Leleck Elementary School at Broad Acres in August 2026; and future replacement projects at Eastern Middle School in August 2030 and Damascus High School in August 2031.

The approved CIP also prioritizes investments in aging infrastructure that impact every school, every day. Funding was approved for additional roof and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

replacement projects, emergency replacement of major building components, fire safety upgrades, school security systems, accessibility improvements, and facility planning efforts. These investments may not always be visible to students and families, but they are essential to maintaining safe, healthy, and welcoming learning environments.

This year also marked an important milestone in how MCPS plans for the future. Over the last two years, MCPS has undergone boundary studies that involved 19 of our 25 existing high school clusters and the middle schools articulating to them. As a part of the Spring CIP process, the Board approved two of the largest boundary studies in MCPS history. One of these studies also resulted in an innovative solution for Thomas S. Wootton High School. For more than a decade, Thomas S. Wootton High School has been included in the CIP, but like many other replacement projects, funding limitations prevented construction of a new facility. As MCPS enters a period of declining enrollment, the school system now has an opportunity to relocate Thomas S. Wootton High School to the newly constructed high school facility at the Crown Farm site. This relocation preserves a comprehensive high school that will continue serving the community and neighboring areas while allowing the existing facility to become a much-needed holding school that will support future modernization projects throughout the county. This non-capital solution demonstrates how changing enrollment trends can create opportunities to meet multiple systemwide needs in innovative and efficient ways.

Building on this work, MCPS will begin a comprehensive review of its elementary and middle school facility portfolio to determine how best to align schools, programs, and physical assets with current and projected enrollment trends. This effort reflects a broader transition occurring across the district as MCPS adapts from a prolonged period of sustained enrollment growth to a future centered on stewardship, sustainability, and the effective use of existing facilities.

The facility portfolio review will evaluate opportunities to improve operational efficiency, assess existing program delivery models, including paired schools, and consider whether schools and facilities appropriately are aligned with student populations across the county. This work ultimately may lead to recommendations regarding school closures, school consolidations, or the repurposing of facilities to support broader systemwide needs, including additional holding schools. Following this review, MCPS will undertake countywide elementary and middle school boundary studies to establish more balanced attendance areas, reduce longstanding inefficiencies created by noncontiguous boundaries and changing development patterns, and strengthen feeder patterns for future generations of students. We recognize these conversations will be difficult and deeply personal for many communities. Any future recommendations will be guided by data, informed through robust community engagement, and conducted in accordance with Board policy and state regulations.

The approved CIP also required difficult decisions due to funding constraints. Several future elementary school replacement projects, including Burning Tree, Cold Spring, Highland View, and Piney Branch elementary schools, were delayed from August 2031 to August 2034. In addition, several operational projects were either delayed or substantially reduced, including the Central Office Headquarters project, Transportation and Regional Support Facilities, Holding School Improvements, and Materials Management Relocation. While these projects remain

important priorities, limited resources require MCPS to continue evaluating alternative strategies and future funding opportunities.

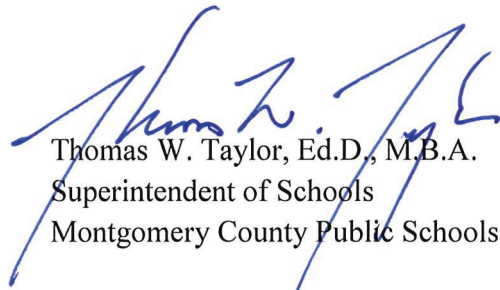
The challenges facing our facilities developed over many years and will require multiple CIP cycles to fully address. However, the FY 2027 Capital Budget and the FY 2027–2032 Capital Improvements Program represents an important turning point. It begins the work of restoring aging infrastructure, adapting to changing enrollment trends, maximizing the use of our existing facilities, and building a more sustainable future for generations of students to come.

We are grateful for the continued partnership of the county executive, County Council, and the citizens of Montgomery County who recognize the importance of investing in public education and the facilities that support teaching and learning every day. We encourage school communities and county residents to review the information contained in this Educational Facilities Master Plan and continue participating in the conversations that will shape the future of Montgomery County Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Grace Rivera-Oven
President
Montgomery County Board of Education



Thomas W. Taylor, Ed.D., M.B.A.
Superintendent of Schools
Montgomery County Public Schools

GRO:TWT:AM:AS:DJC

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Rebecca L. Flora
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Secretary
Alfred Sundara
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Assistant Secretary
State Data and Analysis Center

May 6, 2026
Dr. Thomas W. Taylor
Superintendent
Montgomery County Public Schools
15 West Gude Drive; Suite 400
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Dr. Thomas W. Taylor

Thank you for submitting Montgomery County Public Schools enrollment projections for 2026-2035, in accordance with the regulations of the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC).

The Maryland Department of Planning reviewed your submission and compared your data to the school enrollment projections generated by the State Data & Analysis Center (see attached) and have found the difference to be less than five percent for the years 2026-2035. Therefore, your projections can be used to prepare your 2026 Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) and 2027 Capital Improvement Program submissions.

When preparing your EFMP submission, please ensure the 2025 actual enrollment on your calculation worksheet is consistent with the official enrollment figure generated by the Maryland State Department of Education. The Maryland Department of Planning recognizes the Maryland State Department of Education's K-12 enrollment figure as the official enrollment for the 2025/2026 school year.

We look forward to receiving your EFMP in July. A copy of this letter and its attachment should be included in the plan. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at alfred.sundara@maryland.gov or (410) 767-4456.

Sincerely,

Alfred Sundara, AICP
Assistant Secretary, State Data & Analysis Center

cc: Alex Donahue, Executive Director, Interagency Commission on School Construction
Charles W. Boyd, AICP, Assistant Secretary of Planning Services
Jamie Bridges, Planning Manager, Interagency Commission on School Construction
Graham Twibell, Regional Planner, Interagency Commission on School Construction

Jurisdiction	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Montgomery	151,983	150,746	149,389	148,493	147,404	146,066	144,578	142,713	141,789	140,362	139,402
MDP	151,983	150,940	150,580	150,000	149,120	148,420	147,480	146,500	145,630	144,350	143,390
Diff	0	-194	-1,191	-1,507	-1,716	-2,354	-2,902	-3,787	-3,841	-3,988	-3,988
% Diff	0.00%	-0.13%	-0.79%	-1.00%	-1.15%	-1.59%	-1.97%	-2.58%	-2.64%	-2.76%	-2.78%



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION



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MontgomeryPlanning.org

May 27, 2026

Andrea Swiatocha

Deputy Chief, Division of Facilities Management
Montgomery County Public Schools
45 West Gude Drive, Suite 4000
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Subject: FY 2027 Capital Budget and FY 2027-2032 Capital Improvements Program for Educational Facilities

Dear Ms. Swiatocha,

In response to your request, the Montgomery County Planning Department, on behalf of M-NCPPC, reviewed the FY 2027 Capital Budget and FY 2027-2032 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for Educational Facilities.

Montgomery Planning finds that the FY 2027-2032 CIP, along with the recently approved boundaries for the reopening of Woodward and expansion of Northwood High Schools and the relocation of Wootton and expansion of Damascus High Schools, are consistent with Montgomery County's approved and adopted master plans. Montgomery Planning also commends MCPS's new initiative to analyze the utilization imbalance between schools for a countywide boundary study at the elementary school level. As MCPS shifts its capital planning approach towards renewing its aging infrastructure, Montgomery Planning would like to encourage MCPS to continue pursuing site design that promotes schools as safe, accessible, and sustainable civic public buildings with a strong street presence and deemphasizes vehicular circulation.

We appreciate the Department of Planning and Construction's assistance with our current planning efforts, including the Eastern Silver Spring Communities Plan, Friendship Heights Sector Plan, Germantown Sector Plan Amendment, and Wheaton Plan. We value the strong partnership between our agencies and look forward to continuing the working relationship for upcoming master plans and boundary study efforts as well.

Sincerely,

Jason K. Sartori
Planning Director

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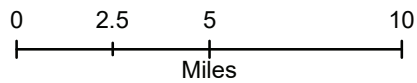
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Cluster Service Areas 2025-2026



Introduction

In November 1996, the voters of Montgomery County approved by referendum an amendment to the County Charter that changed the County Council's review and approval cycle of the six-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) from an annual to biennial cycle. The referendum specified that in odd-numbered fiscal years (on-years), the County Council would conduct a full review of the six-year CIP and in even-numbered fiscal years (off-years), the County Council only would consider amendments to the approved CIP.

FY 2027 was a full CIP review year and resulted in the County Council adoption of the FY 2027–2032 CIP in May 2026. The approved FY 2027 Capital Budget and the FY 2027–2032 CIP provides the approved appropriation authority for funds needed to implement CIP projects during FY 2027 and to implement the FY 2027–2032 CIP.

This document contains the following sections:

Chapter 1, "*The County Council Approved FY 2027 Capital Budget the FY 2027–2032 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)*," is a review of the major factors that have influenced the development of the approved projects in the *FY 2027 Capital Budget and the FY 2027–2032 CIP*. This chapter includes a table summarizing the approved FY 2027–2032 CIP.

Chapter 2, "*The Planning Environment*," describes the demographic, economic, and enrollment trends in Montgomery County that form the context for reviewing facility plans and addressing system needs.

Chapter 3, "*Facility Planning Objectives*," outlines facility planning objectives that guide the school system as it moves to accommodate enrollment shifts and program changes. The objectives are discussed and placed in the context of the approved CIP actions.

Chapter 4, "*Adopted Actions and Planning Issues*," is arranged by high school cluster and high school consortium. This chapter provides tables with enrollment projections, school demographic profiles, building room use, capacity data, and other facility information within each cluster. Planning issues are identified and approved actions are discussed.

Chapter 5, "*Countywide Projects*," provides a brief summary description of the CIP projects that are programmed to meet the needs of schools across the county. These projects (countywide projects) involve multi-year plans with different schools scheduled each year.

Chapter 6, "*Project Description Forms*," contains the individual MCPS Project Description Forms (PDFs) approved by the County Council for the FY 2027 Capital Budget and the FY 2027–2032 CIP. Montgomery County uses the PDFs as the official capital budget documentation for all county agencies.

Several appendices, at the end of the document, contain information on a variety of topics including enrollment, state-rated capacities, Board of Education policies, project schedules, available school sites, closed schools and their current uses, and relocatable classroom placements, and color maps for each cluster. Also included are maps for identifying Board of Education, council manic, and legislative election districts. It is important to note that this is a planning document for the school system as a whole and that while cluster organization is used for presentation of information, planning decisions often cross cluster boundaries to meet program and facility needs for students.

