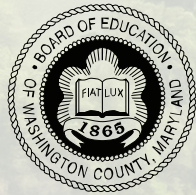


# SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MAY 2, 2023

WCPS | Washington County Public Schools

*Superintendent's Report and  
Recommendations for the Closing of  
Hickory Elementary School and  
Fountain Rock Elementary School  
& the Construction of a Replacement  
Elementary School at Downsville Pike*




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***Superintendent's Report  
and Recommendations  
for the Closing of Hickory  
Elementary School and  
Fountain Rock Elementary  
School & the Construction  
of a Replacement Elementary  
School at Downsville Pike***

# INTRODUCTION

Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) endeavors to offer all students an optimal and exceptional learning environment while building and maintaining school facilities in a way that maximizes available resources in the most cost-effective way possible. In alignment with these goals, WCPS is recommending the closure of two of its smallest and most inadequate elementary school facilities: Hickory Elementary School (Hickory) and Fountain Rock Elementary School (Fountain Rock). Hickory (built circa 1975) and Fountain Rock (built circa 1970) are the first and fourth lowest-rated elementary facilities in the WCPS inventory, respectively, per the physical and functional ratings in the annual facility assessment included in the 2022 Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP). WCPS believes every student deserves the best education possible, and every student should have the opportunity to attend a school facility that meets or exceeds those expectations. These two antiquated schools are in dire need of replacement based on the physical condition and functional attributes of each school and will be replaced with one new, state-of-the-art facility that will be designed to serve the growing population of the surrounding community into the future.

The proposed new facility, temporarily identified as the Downsville Pike Elementary School, will be constructed on property owned by the Washington County Board of Education (WCBOE) at the Center for Educational Services (CES) site. Upon completion, it will offer the latest in instructional amenities and technology; a community gymnasium; enhanced security features; improved heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems; and building components that comply with the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The school will be designed with United States Green Building Council's (USGBC's) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) attributes, making use of sustainable materials in construction and having vastly improved energy efficiency over the current facilities.

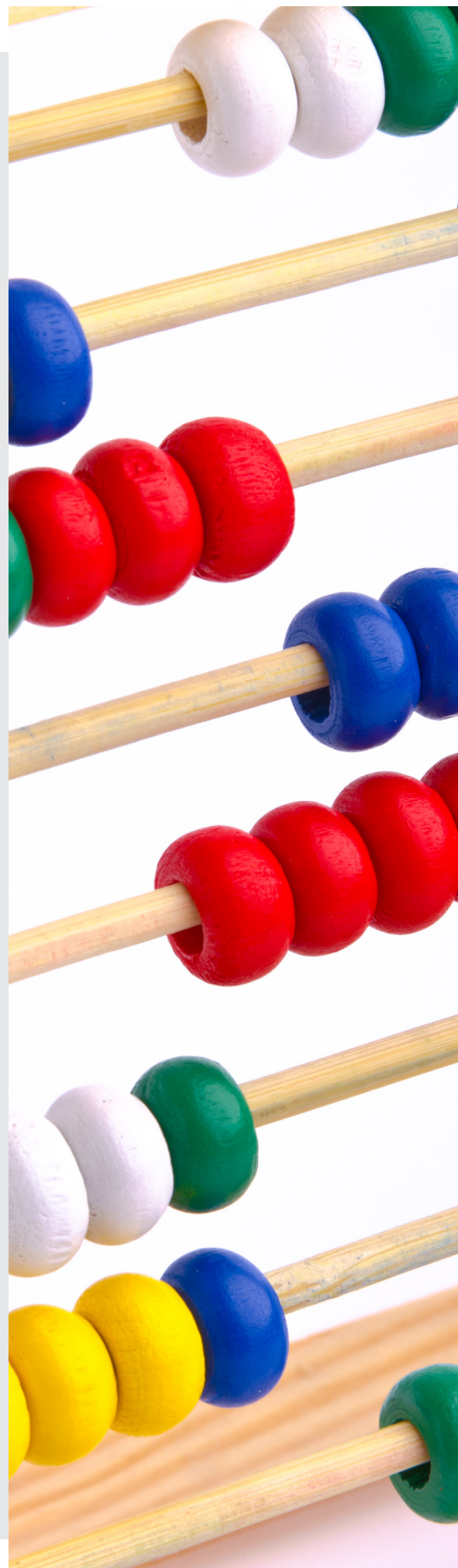
Construction of a single, centrally-located, replacement facility in lieu of undertaking construction of two (2) replacement facilities at the current school sites will provide many fiscal and operational advantages that will be identified in this report. Most importantly, this approach will not disrupt the students' learning environments during construction activities and will provide a newer educational facility to the same number of students in a shorter timeframe than would occur with the replacement of each of the two (2) facilities at their current sites. Construction of this replacement school will provide newer, state-of-the-art facilities to our students sooner, and it will create a safer educational environment for students, staff, and families. Under this plan, construction of the Downsville Pike Elementary School would begin in 2025 and would be complete in the Spring of 2027. The school would be ready for students and staff in August to begin the 2027-2028 school year. Both Hickory and Fountain Rock would be closed at the completion of the 2026-2027 school year.

# THE FORMAT OF THE REPORT

This report is written to specifically address each of the eight (8) factors set forth in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) Title 13A State Board of Education, Subtitle 02 “**Local School Administration**,” Chapter 09 “**Closing of Schools**,” Section .01 “**Adoption of Procedures to Govern School Closings**” (13A.02.09.01) (the “COMAR factors”). These COMAR factors are as follows:

- I. Student enrollment trends*
- II. Age or condition of school buildings*
- III. Transportation*
- IV. Educational programs*
- V. Racial composition of student body*
- VI. Financial considerations*
- VII. Student relocation*
- VIII. Impact on community in geographic attendance area for school proposed to be closed and school, or schools, to which students will be relocating*

A copy of **COMAR 13A.02.09.01** is included in the **APPENDIX** to this report.



# SUMMARY

This report explains how a single new elementary facility will significantly benefit both learning communities while reducing the cost to construct and operate when compared to the cost to replace or modernize the two current elementary schools that are recommended for closure through a review of the COMAR factors listed above.

The state-rated capacity (SRC) of Hickory and Fountain Rock rank 23rd and 24th smallest out of all 25 Washington County elementary or primary schools (CHART 1). Fountain Rock's SRC is 271 student seats, and the SRC of Hickory is 268 student seats. The latest official enrollment data from September 30, 2022, shows the schools are ranked 19th (Hickory) and 21st (Fountain Rock) among the 25 elementary and primary schools in overall enrollment (CHART 1 & 2). The new Downsville Pike Elementary School is proposed to have a SRC of 628 students and will be geographically located between the existing Hickory and Fountain Rock facilities on the CES site. By virtue of its student capacity, location, amenities, and the size of the site on which the school will be constructed, the Downsville Pike Elementary School will offer expanded services and learning opportunities for students attending the new school.

The new Downsville Pike Elementary School is proposed to be a four-round, pre-kindergarten through grade five school that will include core space to accommodate a phased build-out of up to five rounds, acknowledging the possibility for future enrollment growth. The ability to add instructional space to this facility will allow greater flexibility in the future to assist with potential capacity issues projected for the central Washington County area. The initial four-round school's capacity to accommodate 628 students (the same size as Bester Elementary) will allow full-time staffing of various educational programs that are now part-time positions at Hickory and Fountain Rock. Spaces accessible to the community will be included in the design for this school, including an enlarged gymnasium that will be available for community use after school hours. A flexible design will allow the size of the facility to be increased to accommodate programmatic changes, as well as the ability to receive a future addition to bring it to a five-round capacity (785 students), similar to Maugansville, Rockland Woods, and Pangborn elementary schools.

The impact that the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Blueprint) will have on programmatic offerings in Maryland schools is currently unknown but could result in the possible need for increased square footage in facilities to accommodate the requirements of the law. Maryland's Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) is currently investigating how the Blueprint will affect school design, which could result in the State helping to offset increased costs resulting from the initiative. For this report, due to the uncertainty it presents, the impact of the Blueprint is being set aside to ensure an accurate comparison is made based on what is known at this time.

With limited operating and capital budgets, reducing the number of facilities that WCPS operates and maintains is an effective way to increase efficiency and reduce costs. Consolidation of two school populations will save nearly \$600,000 each year in operating costs. Reducing the overall square footage and land area needed for education lowers maintenance and operations costs. Replacing aging infrastructure reduces the cost of maintenance and eliminates almost \$2,000,000 in deferred maintenance and building corrections needed to comply with ADA guidelines. This report details how an estimated savings of \$22,038,000 in capital costs can be realized from the construction of a single replacement facility, rather than undertaking two replacement school projects. Further, a single, new facility can be designed and constructed at a faster pace and will be done offsite, eliminating the disruption that a new construction or renovation project at an occupied school would bring. This allows students and staff to concentrate on education, without unnecessary interruptions, over the course of the project, and brings the benefits of a new school to the community quicker.

# PLANNING HISTORY

The Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) is an annual planning document required by the state of Maryland, which outlines a ten-year facilities plan and is used to develop the WCBOE's annual state and local capital improvement program requests. In 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022 the closing of two (2) elementary schools and the construction of a single replacement facility were identified. In 2018 and 2019, Hickory and Fountain Rock were specifically identified for closure. The Downsville Pike Elementary School (identified as "School 1" in the EFMP) was first proposed and approved by the WCBOE as a future project in the 2018 document. The project was intended to address aging and inadequate schools, add enrollment capacity above existing levels, reduce the total number of elementary facilities, and offer flexibility to aid in Washington County's projected and shifting elementary population. In recent years, limited capital funding refocused the EFMP toward the maintenance of existing buildings through capital maintenance and systemic renovation projects. In 2020, no new or replacement school project was specifically identified in the 10-year plan. The State's passage of the Built to Learn Act provided a one-time, approximately \$20,000,000 injection of capital funds for Washington County intended for the construction of new and replacement schools. With this additional funding available, the WCBOE again approved the concept of the Downsville Pike Elementary School project within the 2021 and 2022 EFMP and then in the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) plan. Washington County's Board of County Commissioners has signaled its tentative approval of the project by identifying funding for the project in its draft FY2024 capital improvement plan. The construction of the new Downsville Pike Elementary School as a replacement for Hickory and Fountain Rock is the timeliest, least disruptive, and most cost-efficient plan, bringing increased educational resources, an improved learning environment, and a community resource for students, staff, and the residents of Washington County.





# Consideration of Factors Set Forth in **COMAR 13A.02.09.01**

## COMAR FACTOR I

### STUDENT ENROLLMENT TRENDS COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(1)

*The student enrollment trends at Hickory, Fountain Rock, and other adjacent elementary schools indicate that additional capacity will be needed in the next 10 years. The combined state-rated capacity (SRC) of Hickory and Fountain Rock is 539 total seats. A single, 4-round replacement school will create a minimum of 628 (89 additional) seats. Due to its central location between Hickory, Fountain Rock, and other adjacent elementary school attendance zones, the proposed Downsville Pike Elementary School will both alleviate over-capacity issues and replace two aging, inadequate, open concept schools, both of which are in need of extensive and costly repairs.*

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) issues an annual document entitled “Public School Enrollment Projections” to aid Local Education Authorities (LEAs) in the preparation of their annual enrollment projections. This document contains historical enrollment information, birth rates, in- and out-migration information, grade-to-grade survivorship ratios, and, most importantly, future enrollment projections for each LEA. A copy of MDP’s Public School Enrollment Projections 2023-2032 for WCPS is included in the **APPENDIX** of this report. The projections generated by MDP provide a broad view of an LEA’s school enrollment through cumulative, grade-by-grade information, but these projections are not subdivided to show expected enrollment at each specific school within a school system. Due to the impact that enrollment projections have on both operating and capital funding, accurate projections on a school-by-school basis are essential. Therefore, WCPS utilizes a consultant, Public Pathways, Inc. (PPI), to aid in the annual generation of ten-year enrollment projections for each individual facility (**CHART 3**). Several factors are considered by PPI when forecasting school enrollments, including cohort survivorship, actual birth rates, planned or in-process housing developments, and housing starts. PPI’s enrollment projections are reviewed and approved by MDP for WCPS’ use when these projections are within plus-or-minus five percent of the projections generated by MDP. WCPS then uses the approved projections when making facilities planning recommendations within the annual EFMP. The enrollment trends are one tool used by WCPS when determining the need for capital projects that address future capacity issues.

State-rated capacity (SRC) is defined by the Administrative Procedures Guide (APG) of the Maryland State Public School Construction Program (PSCP) as the maximum number of students that can reasonably be accommodated in a facility without significantly hampering delivery of the educational program. The local-rated capacity (LRC) is defined by the Washington County Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO), as 90% of the SRC for elementary school facilities only and is meant to be a measure that indicates when seat capacity increases should be considered prior to a school’s enrollment meeting and/or exceeding its SRC. Since 2002, WCPS’ total student enrollment has increased each year for all years except 2014, 2015, and in 2020 during the pandemic (**CHART 3**). Enrollment is projected to continue to increase consistently through the year 2032, according to both PPI and MDP documents (**CHART 3**). The 2023-2032 full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment projections for elementary schools (including pre-kindergarten students) is provided in **CHART 4**. Hickory and Fountain Rock enrollment and projections have been outlined and are in bold print. In 2022, the total WCPS Pre-K-5 enrollment surpassed the cumulative LRC of all elementary schools (**CHART 4**). Current projections indicate that the County’s cumulative total elementary enrollment will remain above LRC, but under the SRC through 2032. However, due to the geographic location of residents in Washington County, the distribution of students does not fill available enrollment capacity equally at all schools. Therefore, WCPS planning staff regularly reviews individual facility enrollment and projections to ascertain that available enrollment capacity is being used to the greatest benefit. Developments and Maps identified in the 2023 EFMP for all Washington County High School Educational Service Areas is included in the **APPENDIX** of this report.

## **HICKORY**

The SRC of Hickory Elementary School is 268 students, with a corresponding LRC of 241 students. When enrollment at this facility reaches 241 students, it is considered “at capacity” according to the APFO. The official 2022 enrollment at Hickory is 328, as shown in **CHART 5**. The average enrollment of Hickory is 120% of its SRC for 2021 and 2022. Current projections indicate that the average enrollment for this facility will likely remain above both LRC and SRC, at 129% of its SRC, through the year 2032. The Hickory attendance area is comprised of existing neighborhoods primarily located just west of the city limits of Hagerstown, with only the northeastern most portion of the attendance zone residing within the city limits. There is one (1) long term active major development in this attendance zone nearing final build out. Per correspondence with Washington County Planning staff, the Lakeside development currently has nine (9) remaining dwelling units to install. These units could collectively generate approximately four (4) elementary students when they are completed. There is one (1) proposed development within this attendance area for which a concept plan was submitted in 2022. The Townes at Rockspring development, if it comes to fruition, could result in 123 townhomes. This development has the potential to generate 40 elementary school students if and when it moves forward. Other than this one proposed housing project, this mature community offers little to no available land for future residential development. Based on the availability of existing infrastructure, future over-enrollment levels are expected to be somewhat stable in this area assuming the continuation of the current economic conditions.

## **FOUNTAIN ROCK**

The SRC of Fountain Rock Elementary School is 271 students, with a corresponding LRC of 244 students. When enrollment at this facility reaches 244 students, it is considered “at capacity” according to the APFO. The current enrollment at Fountain Rock is 299, and, as shown in **CHART 5**, the average enrollment of Fountain Rock is 107% of its SRC for 2021 and 2022. **CHART 5** notes that in 2016, a Board-of-Education-approved redistricting occurred that increased enrollment at this school. This effort was done to alleviate enrollment pressures at the adjacent Williamsport Elementary School and utilize the available capacity of Fountain Rock. There is one active major development in this attendance zone nearing final build out. Per correspondence with Washington County Planning staff, the Elmwood Farm development currently has 14 remaining dwelling units with final plat to build. These units could collectively generate approximately six (6) elementary students when they are completed. This development includes one (1) final phase that consists of 33 units, but it has not received final plat approval. If constructed, this phase could generate an additional 14 elementary students. Current projections indicate that the average enrollment for this facility is anticipated to be 106% of its SRC through the year 2032. Washington County Government’s Comprehensive Plan shows that no part of the Fountain Rock attendance zone is part of an urban growth area. Since water and sewer service is not currently available in this area, it will limit the amount of interest for large subdivision requests, or subsequent approvals, by the Washington County Planning Department. The majority of the Fountain Rock attendance area (especially those areas south of Interstate 70) are zoned Agricultural (Rural), Environmental Conservation, or Rural Village. Because most of the lands in this attendance zone are rural, it would take a significant change in zoning and a significant investment in public utilities for this area to be compatible for future large residential developments for the foreseeable future.

## **ADJACENT SCHOOLS**

The “Washington County Population Data” from MDP was reviewed and provided as part of this report (**CHART 6**). This information can also be found at: [https://planning.maryland.gov/MSDC/Pages/s3\\_projection.aspx](https://planning.maryland.gov/MSDC/Pages/s3_projection.aspx) and at <https://planning.maryland.gov/MSDC/Documents/popproj/PreliminaryTotalPopProj2050.pdf>. The top of **CHART 6** summarizes the historical and projected populations (by age group) of Washington County (as prepared by MDP in December of 2020). The bottom of **CHART 6** summarizes the historical and projected populations (total) of Washington County (as prepared by MDP in December 2022). As noted above, the projected enrollments for Hickory and Fountain Rock will likely grow slowly based on the known geographic and infrastructure conditions. The significance of **CHART 6** is to identify that over the next 15 years (2025 – 2040), MDP is projecting an 18% total population growth for all of Washington County. It is also projecting a 24% growth in children aged 5-19, or grades K-12. Assuming this projection is correct, with a K-5 recorded enrollment of 9,459 students in Washington County in 2022, by 2040 that same K-5 enrollment could be 11,729 (or 2,270 more students). If this projection comes to fruition, it would certainly result in an increase in student population coming from the areas currently served by Hickory and Fountain Rock. However, based on the aforementioned limitations on residential

growth in these areas, it is likely that a greater student population increase will occur in the communities served by adjacent elementary schools that currently have more potential for significant residential growth. While enrollment (and population) projections change every year, and significantly for long range forecasts, the current data prepared by MDP (CHART 3 & 6) identifies the potential need to create more efficient and flexible facilities that can better handle this growth.

The projected FTE enrollment for all WCPS elementary schools through 2032 is provided in CHART 4. As mentioned in the beginning of this Factor, enrollment projections are approved by MDP, and incorporate cohort survivorship, actual birth rates, planned or in-process developments, and housing starts in their calculation. The 2023 EFMP will reflect the enrollment projections presented in this report and provide the ancillary data (housing developments, birth rates, etc.) on how they were generated. Elementary school attendance zones that are adjacent to either Hickory or Fountain Rock have been highlighted and include Emma K. Doub, Jonathan Hager, Lincolnshire, Rockland Woods, Sharpsburg, and Williamsport elementary schools. The IAC considers both overcrowding and the availability of seats in schools in adjacent attendance zones in the determination of eligible state construction funding for new and replacement school projects. In support of the funding request for the proposed Downsville Pike Elementary School, WCPS will provide the following enrollment data and trends:

1. The enrollment at Emma K. Doub Elementary exceeded both its LRC and SRC in 2022, and is projected to remain above SRC through 2032. There is currently one (1) major development in the Emma K. Doub Elementary attendance zone. The Scarlett Hills development (36 total dwelling units) has been dormant for years, but could potentially generate approximately 12 elementary students if or when it is completed.
2. In 2022, enrollment at Jonathan Hager exceeded LRC, and is projected to exceed SRC by 2023. Jonathan Hager's enrollment has steadily increased as the Hager's Crossing development, which surrounds the school, nears completion, the new McCleary Hill Development increases its occupied units, and as other close proximity developments move forward. A new development (Bosteter Farm) is currently being discussed for annexation into the City of Hagerstown. If this development moves forward, it would likely take several years before the proposed 190 single-family homes would generate approximately 82 elementary students.
3. Enrollment at Lincolnshire currently exceeds LRC, and is projected to see a temporary small decline in future enrollment as the redevelopment of a large public housing community formerly known as Noland Village occurs. This particular project, now known as Martin Heights, is currently in planning as funding sources are being sought by the Hagerstown Housing Authority (HHA). Additionally, two (2) other conceptual projects (Unger Properties and Virginia Commons) are being discussed and will continue to be monitored. The Virginia Commons development is currently identified at 368 potential single-family homes. While this project could generate 150+ elementary students in the future, it is still in the early stages of an annexation process into the City of Hagerstown, and it is likely to take several years before it would come to fruition, if at all.
4. Rockland Woods currently has enrollment levels above its LRC. Rockland Woods is not projected to exceed its SRC until after 2032. However, pending the movement or speed of some planned/conceptual developments within that attendance zone, in conjunction with the final build out of the Westfield's development, projected and actual enrollment growth could accelerate and trend higher than what is shown in CHART 3 in the future. The largest conceptual major development in the Rockland Woods attendance zone is the Village at Valencia subdivision. This development is conceptual, but proposes 150 townhomes, and could generate approximately 48 elementary students if it comes to fruition.
5. Sharpsburg Elementary is currently projected to remain below its LRC for the foreseeable future.
6. Enrollment at Williamsport Elementary currently exceeds LRC and is projected to exceed SRC in 2028. While there are less than 10 permits remaining to be issued in this attendance area for existing small developments, there are no new major developments in discussion.

The current combined SRC for both Hickory and Fountain Rock is 539 students. The actual total enrollment for these two (2) facilities in 2022 was 627 students (299+328). The projected combined enrollment for both schools in 2032 is 641 students, 102 more than their combined SRC. The proposed Downsville Pike Elementary School is currently projected to open as an efficient four-round, 628-student facility. The size and capacity of the proposed Downsville Pike Elementary School facility and the associated financial implications will be discussed further in this report in: COMAR Factor VI – [COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(6)] "Financial Considerations".

The new facility will result in an increase of 89 seats above the current combined Hickory and Fountain Rock SRC. Taking into consideration the seats that are projected to be available at all adjacent facilities (Rockland Woods, Williamsport, Lincolnshire, Emma K. Doub, Jonathan Hager, and Sharpsburg elementary schools) it is possible based on current projections and available capacity that the new school could open in 2027 with as many as 593 students, depending on the outcome of the attendance zone realignments that will be completed prior to its opening. The attendance zone realignment process is discussed in more detail in this report in:

**COMAR Factor VII – [COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(7)] “Student Relocation”.**

However, these attendance zone realignments will likely not be able to adjust the boundaries of each adjacent attendance zone to place every student in a zone in an “available” seat due to the many factors considered in the realignments. Chief among these factors is the proximity of students to their schools, walkability, transportation, and geographical considerations. In order to meet the student capacity needs if moderate enrollment growth continues, the Downsville Pike Elementary School will be designed to allow for a one-round addition if increased capacity is needed in the future. Core spaces will be designed slightly oversized to accommodate future enrollment growth when this addition would be needed. Jonathan Hager was similarly designed in a way that will allow it to be easily expanded from its current three-round capacity (471 seats) to a five-round capacity (785 seats). There are many developments in the concept phase currently identified in the Hickory, Fountain Rock, and adjacent schools’ attendance zones. It is unknown if or when these residential developments will begin to generate students. Additionally, there are other areas of Washington County that have the same (or similar) situation with regard to future development and potential student growth. Choosing “when”, and most importantly “where” to add capacity to account for this potential growth is a dynamic challenge that is subject to many economic factors and constraints. Having both Jonathan Hager Elementary and the new Downsville Pike Elementary School designed for future expansion in WCPS’ facility inventory gives the WCBOE the flexibility to determine where to construct seat capacity in the future depending on where residential and student enrollment growth actually occur.

The Downsville Pike Elementary School, centrally located between both Hickory and Fountain Rock, will not have a negative impact on the student enrollment trends for these two (2) facilities. Upon consideration of other adjacent elementary school projected enrollments, the Downsville Pike Elementary School will be designed to allow for a future expansion, creating an option (if needed) to help alleviate potential future enrollment growth and capacity issues.



# COMAR FACTOR II

## AGE OR CONDITION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(2)

*The overall physical and functional condition of both the Hickory and Fountain Rock elementary school buildings are considered to be below average per the 2023 Facility Assessment that will be included in the 2023 Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP). Closing both of these facilities and replacing them with the proposed new Downsville Pike Elementary School will alleviate the need for the modernization and/or replacement of two aging facilities and the ongoing maintenance and operation of two facilities thereafter. Hickory is the lowest ranked elementary school facility (25th of 25), and Fountain Rock is the fourth lowest ranked elementary school facility (22nd of 25) per the annual Facility Assessment. All elementary school facilities adjacent to Hickory and Fountain Rock have higher facility assessment ratings.*

Each facility in the WCPS inventory undergoes a yearly facility assessment, which evaluates both the physical and functional conditions of WCPS school buildings. This analysis is included in the annual EFMP process. The 2023 WCPS *Facility Assessment* of elementary schools is shown in **CHART 7**. These assessments consider the age and condition of each major building component and provide a cumulative physical rating for each facility that is representative of the overall physical condition. The assessments also consider the functional capability of the school facility to support the educational program needs and overall operations of each school to provide an excellent learning environment. The overall ranking of a school is representative of both the physical and functional assessments. The results of the facility assessment are considered in conjunction with community analyses, enrollment projections, and educational program changes, as part of determining WCPS' facility needs in the annual EFMP. **CHART 8** provides a summary of the 2023 *Elementary Facility Assessment Score* as well as the adjusted age of each facility. The adjusted age of a facility is a pro-rated average of the years of construction (original, renovations, additions, modernizations) and their respective area (sq. ft.) to derive a facility's average (or adjusted) age. All elementary schools that are adjacent to Hickory and Fountain Rock have higher facility assessment scores, and all except for Emma K. Doub Elementary have a newer adjusted age.

*The Facility Needs Analysis* (Chapter 5) of the annual EFMP, utilizes information presented within that same document (including the *Facility Assessments* shown in **CHART 7 & 8**) to form a master plan of facility needs (large capital projects, renovation projects, systemic projects, etc.) for the next ten years. The annual EFMP, upon approval by the WCBOE, is then utilized to generate the annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding requests to both the state and county governments. As shown on the FY 2024 CIP, (**CHART 9**) the summary of the requested and planned projects for FY 2024 through 2029 is based upon the information found within the 2022 EFMP. A "Replacement Elementary School" was approved and identified as a future project by the WCBOE in the 2022 EFMP and FY24 CIP. The concept of a new elementary school at the Downsville Pike location to replace Hickory and Fountain Rock was first approved by the WCBOE in the 2018 EFMP, and again in the 2019 EFMP. The replacement school was not specifically identified in the 2020 EFMP during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 Pandemic, but it was noted in that document that ALL large capital projects had been removed due to local funding constraints. Proposing to utilize Built to Learn Act (BTL) supplemental funding, a New Replacement Elementary school returned to the 2021 EFMP and the 2022 EFMP, both of which were approved by the WCBOE. While two (2) or three (3) other replacement elementary school options were proposed in the 2018 and 2019 EFMPs, the Downsville Pike Elementary School is the only option that currently has land available for use as a school site. The Downsville Pike property was approved as submitted by both the State Clearinghouse and the Interagency Committee on School Construction for a future school site use.

### **HICKORY**

Hickory Elementary is ranked as the lowest scoring elementary facility in the 2023 WCPS *Facility Assessment* with an overall score of 60 (**CHART 7 & 8**). This facility has been the lowest or second lowest scoring school in the assessment for

at least the past seven (7) years and is categorized as being in below average condition. Hickory was originally built in 1975 as a 39,571 square foot (SF), single-story facility. It is located on a 10.23 acre site on Hickory School Road that is accessed only from U.S. Route 11 (Virginia Avenue) to the South. The school site is bounded by the Crosspoint Shopping Central (shopping mall -Target, Kohls, Petco, etc.) property to the North, West Grosh Avenue to the West, and a privately-owned parcel to the East. A site plan and an aerial map of the facility and grounds is included in the **APPENDIX** of this Report. The site is partially limited by its geography (wooded areas/building location/property lines/infrastructure) and shape. The clear and accessible areas available do not currently permit a full-size athletic field for use. This limits the ability for students to participate in some outdoor activities. The proximity of the commercial property to the north affects the outdoor instructional environment with noise, and potential increased security risks. The facility does not have a sprinkler system, lacks specifically designed specialty instructional spaces and a dedicated media center, and has two (2) relocatable classrooms. While relocatable classrooms are helping to serve as a temporary solution, the existing school still lacks adequate spaces for art, music, small-group instruction, administration, and student services. While the relocatable classrooms provide temporary classroom space, they take up additional physical space on the already limited/confined site. The school is an “open school”, with classroom areas designated by temporary partitions and not solid walls. Students walk through or beside adjacent open classrooms when moving to core or specialty instructional spaces, which is disruptive to the educational environment. Because of the site size/limitations, parking for staff and visitors is minimal. The site does not allow for a separation of bus/parent traffic during drop-off/pick-up which creates potential safety/traffic back-up issues. The school is served by public water and sewer utilities from the City of Hagerstown.

**CHART 7** shows the current physical deficiencies of Hickory are numerous. As this building continues to age, the backlog of deferred maintenance will continue to grow. If a replacement facility for Hickory is not constructed, costly repairs, modifications, and upgrades will be required to keep the building functional. For example, the site conditions, age, interior conditions, and air handling systems (RTU's and AHU's) are ranked as poor (below 60). The Exterior Conditions, Roof, Energy Management System, Fire Life and Safety, Lavatories and Lighting are all ranked below average. All these building systems will need to be replaced in the near future if a new facility is not constructed. This facility would also require modifications to meet all the guidelines of the ADA. Current estimates indicate that it would cost in excess of \$205,000 to make all ADA improvements at Hickory. The estimated cost of deferred maintenance at Hickory is approximately \$3,700,000. Requests to fence the perimeter of the playfields (not included in the ADA or deferred maintenance costs identified) are currently estimated to be \$75,000. While the costs for maintenance or replacement of equipment with a rating of “Average” or higher may be able to be delayed for a few years, at some point in the future these needs must be addressed if this facility continues to operate. Financial considerations are discussed in more detail in: **COMAR Factor VI – [COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(6)] “Financial Considerations”**.

## **FOUNTAIN ROCK**

Fountain Rock Elementary School is ranked as the fourth lowest scoring elementary facility in the 2023 WCPS Facility Assessment with an overall score of 64 (**CHART 7 & 8**). This school has been among the lowest 5 scoring elementary schools (out of 25) in the Facility Assessment since 2020 and is categorized as being in below average condition. Fountain Rock is a 35,318 SF, single-story facility. The original 28,701 SF building was built in 1970. In 2009, a 5,621 SF cafeteria addition was added to the building along with the renovation of 996 SF of the kitchen, lobby, and a storage area. The school is located on a 16.6-acre site on Lappans Road (MD Route 68). A site plan and an aerial map of the facility and grounds is included in the **APPENDIX** of this Report. Fountain Rock lacks specialty instructional spaces and a dedicated space for a media center and has two (2) relocatable classrooms. While relocatable classrooms have helped serve as a temporary solution, the existing school still lacks adequate spaces for science, art, music, computers, small-group instruction, administration, and student services. Like Hickory, the school is an “open school,” with classroom areas designated by temporary partitions and not solid walls. Students walk through or beside adjacent open classroom areas when moving to core or specialty instructional spaces, which is disruptive to the educational environment. The school is served by a well for potable water and has a septic field.

**CHART 7** shows the current physical deficiencies of Fountain Rock are numerous. As this building continues to age, the backlog of deferred maintenance will continue to grow. For example, the site conditions, age, interior conditions,

and potable water are ranked as Poor (below 60) and will need to be rectified in the near future if a new facility is not constructed. The site conditions, exterior conditions, fire life and safety, and laboratories are all ranked Below Average and will need to be addressed as well. This facility does not meet current ADA guidelines and would require extensive modifications in order to meet them. Current estimates indicate that it would cost in excess of \$115,000 to make ADA improvements at Fountain Rock. The estimated cost of deferred maintenance at Fountain Rock is approximately \$420,000. Requests to fence the perimeter of the playfields (not included in the ADA or deferred maintenance costs identified) are currently estimated to be \$120,000. The well water system requires frequent ongoing monitoring and maintenance. At some point, these systems will need to be replaced or, pending environmental concerns/changing regulations, may need to have alternatives provided. The current total cost to run public water and sewer to this site is estimated to be \$8,000,000. While the costs for maintenance or replacement of equipment with a rating of “Average” or higher may be able to be delayed for a few years, at some point in the future all these needs/conditions must be addressed if this facility is to continue to be operated. Financial considerations are discussed in more detail in: **COMAR Factor VI – [COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(6)] “Financial Considerations”.**

## **ADJACENT SCHOOLS**

In the 2023 *Facilities Assessment* (CHART 8), both Hickory and Fountain Rock were ranked as “below average” based on their functional and physical condition. While the staff at these facilities will do whatever is necessary to provide a top-quality education, the current buildings are not supporting this effort. Adjacent elementary school facilities (Sharpsburg, Jonathan Hager, Rockland Woods, Williamsport, Lincolnshire, Emma K. Doub) are all ranked as “Excellent”, “Above Average”, or “Average.” Except for Emma K. Doub Elementary School, all of the adjacent elementary schools have an adjusted age that is newer than Hickory and Fountain Rock. Based on the condition of these surrounding schools and pending attendance zone realignment decisions made in the future, it is likely that the closure of Hickory and Fountain Rock and the opening of a new Downsville Pike Elementary School will result in the greatest number of students being able to attend a higher ranked elementary facility in the shortest time possible. Attendance zone realignment considerations are discussed in more detail in: **COMAR Factor VII – [COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(7)] “Student Relocation,”** and community considerations are discussed in more detail in: **COMAR Factor VIII – [COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(8)] “Impact on community in geographic attendance area for school proposed to be closed and school or schools to which students will be relocating.”**

With a backlog of deferred maintenance projects for all WCPS facilities of approximately \$70,000,000, as identified in the FY 2022 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan, Fountain Rock and Hickory collectively represent approximately \$4,000,000, or 5.7% of that total (while making up 2.1% of the total building area in all WCPS facilities). Closing Hickory and Fountain Rock, and replacing them with the new Downsville Pike Elementary School facility, will result in a reduction of deferred maintenance costs that can then be made available to support systemic renovation projects and improve conditions at other WCPS facilities.

# COMAR FACTOR III

## TRANSPORTATION COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(3)

*Closing Hickory and Fountain Rock and opening Downsville Pike Elementary School will have little or no effect on student transportation costs. A new attendance zone will be created for Downsville Pike Elementary School, which will result in changes to bus routes. Currently, neither Hickory nor Fountain Rock include a non-transported area. The new Downsville Pike Elementary School will likely not include a non-transported area as well. It is not expected that student time spent on buses will significantly change; however, some students will experience longer transportation times, while other students will experience shorter times.*

During the 2022-2023 school year, 133 WCPS and 38 contractor-owned buses travel over 18,000 miles each day. Bus transportation is available for approximately 19,600 of the 21,244 K-12 students twice each day, while the remaining students reside in non-transportable areas. Pursuant to WCBOE Regulation EEA-R, Paragraph 1 - “Non-transported Areas,” non-transported areas apply to elementary students who reside within one (1) mile of the designated student entrance to the school. For convenience, ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION EEA-R is included in the APPENDIX of this Report.

The Transportation Department employs approximately 166 certified route and substitute drivers, as well as 14 regular and substitute crossing guards and 57 regular and substitute bus assistants. Washington County has 467 square miles of terrain, with a maximum distance of 47 miles between the eastern and western borders and a maximum distance of 28 miles between the northern and southern borders.

The Transportation Department utilizes its buses to serve elementary, middle, and high school students daily. To maximize the efficiency of its existing resources for the transportation of students to and from school, the bell times of each WCPS facility are critical. WCPS currently utilizes a four “tier” system, where each “tier” is a group of schools that generally begin and end the school day at approximately the same time. Eastern Elementary School and Ruth Ann Monroe Primary School are the only schools that operate on the fourth tier. Each of the four “tiers” generally begin and dismiss at a different time than the other three “tiers.” For example, a 1st tier school would have an earlier morning bell time than a 2nd tier or a 3rd tier school. This system allows a single bus to serve multiple facilities by transporting students to and from schools on different tiers. Fountain Rock, Rockland Woods, Sharpsburg, and Jonathan Hager all have current bell times that are classified as 1st tier. Hickory, Lincolnshire, Emma K. Doub, and Williamsport are classified as 2nd tier schools. CHART 10 lists the current bell times for all WCPS facilities.

Hickory and Fountain Rock are separated by a distance of approximately 5 miles. The travel time between the two schools is approximately eight (8) minutes. The proposed site for the Downsville Pike Elementary School is located at the Center for Educational Services (CES) at 10435 Downsville Pike. This location is approximately 2.7 miles from Hickory, and 2.4 miles from Fountain Rock (MAP IN APPENDIX). The direct travel time from Hickory to this location is approximately six (6) minutes, and direct travel from Fountain Rock to this location takes approximately four (4) minutes.

The following assumptions were used in analyzing the impact the proposal to close Fountain Rock and Hickory and open Downsville Pike Elementary School would have on student transportation:

1. Hickory and Fountain Rock will be closed in June 2027.
2. Downsville Pike Elementary School will open for students in August 2027.
3. All elementary students who reside in the Hickory and Fountain Rock attendance zones would be reassigned to Downsville Pike Elementary School.



4. Downsville Pike Elementary School will operate on a 1st tier bell schedule.
5. All students who will attend the new Downsville Pike Elementary School will be eligible for transportation services.
6. A standard bus can serve/transport an average load of 55 students per route.
7. Some buses will make use of double routes to serve the new Downsville Pike Elementary School facility.
8. Route adjustments and redistributed routes based on to-be-determined attendance zone realignments will occur at other WCPS 1st tier facilities. Actual attendance zone realignments will be considered and approved by the WCBOE at a later date, prior to the opening of the new school. (The attendance zone realignment process is discussed in more detail in: **COMAR Factor VII – [COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(7)] “Student Relocation”.**)
9. School start and dismissal times will be adjusted to maximize the efficiency of the transportation resources and minimize student travel time to the extent possible.

## **ANALYSIS OF IMPACT TO STUDENT TRANSPORTATION**

### **HICKORY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

During the 2022-2023 school year, all of the 328 Hickory students (who reside within the attendance zone) are eligible for transportation. Hickory currently utilizes seven (7) school buses, therefore; up to seven (7) buses on seven (7) routes may be required to transport those students to their future assigned school.

WCPSs Transportation Department has reviewed the existing address points for students who attend Hickory. If Hickory were to be closed, and students redistricted to the new Downsville Pike Elementary School, the Transportation Department estimates that the longest ride time for these students would be approximately 20 minutes, and the average ride time would be 15 minutes. The Transportation Department has determined that these ride times are consistent with current longest and average ride times for Hickory students.

### **FOUNTAIN ROCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

During the 2022-2023 school year, all of the 299 Fountain Rock students (who reside within the attendance zone) are eligible for transportation. Per WCBOE policy, all students residing in the Fountain Rock attendance zone will be eligible for transportation to Downsville Pike Elementary School if Fountain Rock closes. Fountain Rock currently utilizes five (5) school buses with one (1) bus operating on two (2) routes – a total of six (6) routes. Therefore, it can be assumed that five (5) buses and six (6) routes may be required to transport those students to their future assigned school.

WCPS Transportation Department has reviewed the existing address points for students who attend Fountain Rock. If Fountain Rock were to be closed, and students redistricted to the new Downsville Pike Elementary School, the Transportation Department estimates that the longest ride time for these students would be approximately 65 minutes, and the average ride time would be around 25 minutes. The Transportation Department has determined that these ride times are consistent with current longest and average ride times for Fountain Rock students.

### **ADJACENT SCHOOLS**

The majority of transported students attending adjacent elementary schools (Emma K. Doub, Jonathan Hager, Lincolnshire, Rockland Woods, Sharpsburg, and Williamsport) will not be impacted by the closure of Hickory and Fountain Rock and the opening of Downsville Pike Elementary School. However, it is possible that students who reside in proximity to the current Fountain Rock, Hickory, or other adjacent school's attendance zones could be reassigned to the new Downsville Pike Elementary School or another adjacent school as a result of future attendance zone realignment decisions. The Transportation Department has determined that the average ride times for students will only be minimally impacted, if at all, by any attendance zone realignment resulting from the construction of the new school. The effect on transportation is also considered as a factor when attendance zone adjustments are determined and will be studied closely at that time.

Please note that in all the above analyses the exact ride times can only be determined after comprehensive planning and routing is completed. Furthermore, ride times can fluctuate year to year, with no facility or attendance zone changes, based solely on determining the best overall transportation efficiency for the school system. CHART 11 lists the current longest and the average ride times for students at all elementary schools.

Based on its analysis of transportation needs of the proposed new school and its vehicular and personnel resources, the Transportation Department does not expect additional vehicles, routes, or drivers will be needed when Downsville Pike Elementary School opens, and that the cost impact would therefore be neutral. This analysis also indicates no changes to the average ride time for students. It is important to state that comprehensive reviews of bus routes occur every year to serve an ever-changing student population, which can sometimes result in adjustments to individual ride times (both longer and shorter) while striving to reduce the overall average student ride time. Pending final attendance zone realignments necessitated by the closing and opening of the impacted schools, adjustments to current school hours (or Tiers) will be considered to maximize efficiency of student transportation. The Transportation Department constantly monitors its operations to attain the most efficient use of its resources possible, regardless of any potential or real changes to facilities or attendance zones. The closure of Hickory and Fountain Rock and the opening of Downsville Pike Elementary School will not significantly impact the overall transportation of students.



# COMAR FACTOR IV:

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(4)

*Educational programs for students will be enhanced through the physical design of a new facility, and through the efficiency of school size. Conventional, Title I, and special course educational programming will see some changes through the closure of Hickory and Fountain Rock and the opening of the new Downsville Pike Elementary.*

### **PHYSICAL DESIGN**

*The design of the new Downsville Pike Elementary School will support the efficient delivery of the increasing and evolving educational programs and support services offered by WCPS to students in ways that are difficult to accomplish at the existing Fountain Rock and Hickory facilities. The Downsville Pike Elementary School will offer dedicated, enclosed spaces for art, music, special education, small-group instruction, and individualized instruction spaces that are state of the art. While these instructional opportunities are currently provided at Fountain Rock and Hickory, some are limited, or occur in spaces that are makeshift and inadequate.*

Specific ways that a new facility will help improve the delivery of educational programs include:

- **Self-contained classrooms**
  - Fewer distractions
  - Integrated technology
  - Improved natural and artificial lighting
  - Individual temperature control and increased ventilation
  - Enhanced Security
  - Welcoming and bright classroom environment
  - Toilet associated with each classroom
- **Dedicated instructional spaces**
  - Creative lab space/learning studio
  - Art room
  - General and instrumental music rooms
  - Separate gymnasium
  - Behavior support rooms
  - Small group/collaboration spaces
  - Special education rooms
  - Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten
- **School scheduling**
  - Master schedules will be able to be created based on needs of students rather than space(s) available
- **Larger and improved core spaces**
  - Large cafeteria with modern kitchen
  - Stage for performances which can double as an instructional space
- **State-of-the-art media center**
  - Large, dedicated gymnasium separated from cafeteria by a moveable wall which can be opened for large group gatherings
  - The gym will be an improved resource for community events and the County's Department of Parks and Recreation events.
- **Support student learning**
  - Support student learning
  - Includes instructional and technology learning areas
  - Larger collection of reading materials
  - Can be used for teacher and staff professional development
  - Resource for community meetings and activities
  - School hub
- **Space for related services**
  - Guidance counselor(s) and social worker
  - Occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech, and other instructional related services
  - Expanded health suite
  - Support student health needs
  - Healthy students result in better attendance and increased opportunities to learn
  - Isolation room
  - PTA/Parent Involvement Room

- **School management**
  - Clean, bright facility
  - Wider hallways to ease congestion when students move between activities
  - Enhanced security functions and viewsheds
  - Lockers in hallways for intermediate grades, cubbies in classrooms for primary grades
  - Additional storage spaces for resource materials
  - Less clutter in classrooms and hallways
  - Instructional material rooms accessible for teachers and staff
- Multiple teacher work rooms
- Administration suite with conference room and workroom
- **Site Design/Green space**
  - More space for outdoor instruction, for learning and for playing
  - Support community events and activities
  - Environmentally friendly facility

## **EFFICIENCY OF SCHOOL SIZE**

***Financial considerations notwithstanding, the enrollment capacity of the proposed four-round Downsville Pike Elementary School will allow positions that are currently staffed part-time at Fountain Rock and Hickory to become full-time positions based on the total number of students served.***

The functional/staffing efficiencies and the associated financial implications achieved through a larger elementary educational facility will be discussed further in: **COMAR Factor VI – [COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(6)] “Financial Considerations”.**

Educational Programs are impacted by the new school. Despite significant efforts to provide educational opportunities and support for Fountain Rock and Hickory students, many existing services are provided by staff split between two or more schools. With a larger student population, full-time staff can be justified/available to support the needs of students through gifted and talented programming, music, art, library media, physical education staff, and counseling services. This enhanced efficiency will result in more consistent educational program offerings to the student population.

At both Fountain Rock and Hickory, there are typically two (2) classes or “rounds” of students in each grade. Often in small schools with only two (2) rounds, even slight enrollment changes in a grade level can result in large class sizes. To illustrate this point, assume a 2-round facility with 23 students in each 1st grade class. This example would represent a total 1st grade population of 46 students. For a school year where the total 1st grade population increased by 10 students, (56) it would result in class sizes of 28 and 28. Or, it could result in three (3) classrooms, with class sizes of 19, 19, and 18, which would necessitate an additional space (relocatable classroom/etc.), and could impact ancillary class/school schedules (music/art/pe/music/lunch/etc.). At a 4-round facility, assuming the same ideal 1st grade class sizes of 23 in each classroom (92 total students), the same 10 student bubble (102 total students) would result in class sizes of 26, 26, 25, and 25, meaning less impact or smaller class sizes than the same 10 student increase would have at a 2-round school. A 4-round facility could take on a grade level enrollment increase of 20 students before the average class sizes would reach the 28 student level that a 10 student grade level enrollment increase would cause at a 2-round school. The purpose of this example is to illustrate that in larger schools with more classes in each grade level, principals are able to better balance small shifts in enrollment. In larger schools, students can be shifted between classes to provide educational programs more effectively and efficiently.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS – CONVENTIONAL**

***Every year, educational programs are revised and changed at all WCPS schools based on the needs of the students, educational requirements, and individual facility needs. A new Downsville Pike Elementary School facility will offer the same conventional educational programs as all other WCPS elementary schools.***

The total number of students in the school system, as recorded in the prior year's September 30th official enrollment numbers, would not be impacted by closing Hickory or Fountain Rock and opening Downsville Pike Elementary School. While the proposed closure will not result in a change to funding, the reduction of overall operating costs, due to efficiencies gained from closing two facilities and opening a single replacement facility, will give WCPS the option to redistribute those savings to better support all the educational programs. This is an advantage to all the students of WCPS.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS – TITLE I**

***Title I funding for the existing educational programs at Hickory will be impacted by the school closure. The Title I funds will be reallocated to other WCPS Title I facilities, and the new Downsville Pike Elementary School could be eligible to be a Title I facility in the 2028-2029 school year, pending its Free and Reduced Meal (FARM) eligibility rate.***

The overall financial advantages and disadvantages of closing both Hickory and Fountain Rock are discussed in detail in: **COMAR Factor VI – [COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(6)] "Financial Considerations".**

Overall funding for WCPS is formulated on a per pupil basis, not a per facility basis. Closing Hickory and Fountain Rock will not increase or decrease special, federal, or state funding, but it will reduce overall operational costs due to increased efficiency. These cost savings could be redistributed for other educational uses, and programs, throughout WCPS.

Each LEA receives an annual Title I funding allocation (federal funds) that it distributes to schools it has designated to receive the funding. These funds are combined with federal, state, and local funds to supplement current or existing school programs at the Title I facilities. During the 2022-2023 school year, WCPS provided Title I funding to eight (8) elementary schools (Bester, Eastern, Jonathan Hager, Hickory, Lincolnshire, Pangborn, Ruth Ann Monroe, and Salem Avenue). Any facility with a FARM eligible student percentage of 75% or higher from the prior year's official October FARMS number, is automatically designated as a Title I facility. In 2023-2024, WCPS will have nine (9) Title I facilities, as Emma K. Doub Elementary will be added based on its FARM eligible student percentage recorded in October of 2022. Each LEA has the option to designate additional facilities that have been open for more than one (1) year, as Title I schools. There is no limit on the number of facilities that an LEA designates as Title I; however, the total Title I funding allocation per LEA is not increased or adjusted based on an increase in the number of Title I facilities. The new Downsville Pike Elementary School could be designated as a Title I facility after the one (1) year operational time frame. Since Fountain Rock does not currently receive Title I funding, this scenario could result in more overall students participating in programs that receive additional funding through Title I. If Downsville Pike Elementary School is not designated as a Title I facility, some of the students that currently attend Hickory and Lincolnshire or Emma K. Doub (adjacent schools) who eventually could attend Downsville Pike Elementary School may not receive all the benefits that a school can derive from Title I resources. However, regardless of the Title I funding, students who attend Downsville Pike Elementary School will still be offered the same programs that are currently offered at WCPS elementary schools based on the individual needs of each student.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS – SPECIAL COURSES**

***Special education, enrichment, and extended learning programs at the proposed new Downsville Pike Elementary School will be designed to meet the educational needs of the students.***

With the exception of the Title I program, special courses or programs currently offered at Hickory and Fountain Rock will see no major changes. At Downsville Pike Elementary School, these programs will be housed in spaces specifically designed for this purpose. Due to the system-wide advantages of consolidating resources and increasing efficiencies, as well as the proximity to the Center for Educational Services (CES), students could be offered additional programs at the proposed new elementary facility that were not available at Hickory or Fountain Rock.

# COMAR FACTOR V

## RACIAL COMPOSITION OF STUDENT BODY COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(5)

*The racial compositions of Hickory and Fountain Rock, when averaged together, represent the diversity of the average WCPS elementary school. Racial composition of school populations is one of the factors that is considered when new attendance zones are created and will be considered during the creation of the new Downsville Pike Elementary School attendance zone and any adjustments to adjacent attendance zones.*

Reviewing the racial composition of Hickory and Fountain Rock will help determine the impact, if any, that the closing of these two schools could have on adjacent elementary schools. The adjacent schools are being reviewed because they could potentially receive some Hickory or Fountain Rock students as part of future attendance zone realignments associated with the school closings and the opening of Downsville Pike Elementary School. The racial composition of the students is shown as “Percent of White,” which represents Caucasian students of European descent, and “Percent of Non-White,” which represents Hispanic, American Indian, Asian, Black/African American, Native Hawaiian, and two or more races. This nomenclature is taken directly from the “2021 Maryland Public School Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity and Gender and number of Schools” as reported by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

**WCPS elementary school aged students have an average racial composition of:**

	PERCENT OF WHITE	PERCENT OF NON-WHITE
WCPS September 2022 Elementary Average	56.07%	43.93%

**Hickory and Fountain Rock had racial compositions in September 2022 as follows:**

SCHOOL	STUDENTS (FTE)	PERCENT OF WHITE	PERCENT OF NON-WHITE
Hickory Elem.	328	36.59%	63.41%
Fountain Rock Elem.	299	82.61%	17.39%

**Adjacent elementary schools had racial compositions in September 2022 as follows:**

SCHOOL	STUDENTS (FTE)	PERCENT OF WHITE	PERCENT OF NON-WHITE
Emma K. Doub Elem.	354	55.37%	44.63%
Jonathan Hager Elem.	469	29.85%	70.15%
Lincolnshire Elem.	496	54.23%	45.77%
Rockland Woods Elem.	625	46.56%	53.44%
Sharpsburg Elem.	349	92.55%	7.45%
Williamsport Elem.	514	70.62%	29.37%

This information details the racial composition of the two elementary schools under consideration to be closed, and all the adjacent schools. The racial composition of the combined student populations of Hickory and Fountain Rock (58.53% “white” and 41.47% “non-white”) roughly mirrors the average elementary composition (56.07% “white” and 43.93% “non-white”) across the county. However, it is highly unlikely that these two student populations will be solely combined. Moving forward, these factors would be considered during any attendance zone realignment process.

# COMAR FACTOR VI

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(6)

*Both Hickory and Fountain Rock are in dire need of replacement. The closing of these schools, coupled with the construction and operation of a single, energy efficient, state-of-the-art Downsville Pike Elementary School to replace the enrollment capacity of the two schools, will result in a conservatively estimated \$27,838,000 in capital and operating cost savings over the next 10 years (CHART 16).*

In considering the financial implications of closing Hickory and Fountain Rock, two categories of spending must be studied: capital expenditures and general fund operating costs. The capital expenditures represent one-time costs that provide a long-term solution to the educational facility needs of elementary students of Washington County. The general fund operating costs are structural, annual costs funded by yearly budget appropriations. These costs can generally be broken down into five categories inherent in the operating cost of a school facility:

1. Staffing
2. Utilities
3. Maintenance and Operations
4. Transportation
5. Food and Nutrition Services

For each of the components that derive the financial considerations that are discussed and reviewed in Factor VI, this analysis considers both the existing Hickory and Fountain Rock facilities and/or the concept of two (2) new “replacement” facilities for them. The rationale for comparing renovation or replacement facilities at each site versus the proposed new Downsville Pike Elementary School are identified in each section of this Factor and were considered to ensure fairness and accuracy.

## CAPITAL COSTS

### **BACKGROUND**

WCPS submits annual requests for State and local Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds for school construction projects. Per COMAR Title 14.39.02 and the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) Administrative Procedures Guide (APG) of the Public School Construction Program (PSCP), formulas are provided that are used to determine the total eligible State funding for a proposed project. The APG provides criteria on how the projected enrollment of a proposed facility and adjacent schools are reviewed in order to determine the scope of the State’s participation in the funding of a proposed project. The State formulas determine the maximum square foot area of construction it will fund based upon the projected enrollment capacity needs for a given project. Capital funding for renovation or modernization projects must be tested not only for enrollment needs, but also must meet minimum age criteria – a school facility must be greater than 15 years in age for the State to provide any funding, and over 40 years old to receive maximum State funding for a renovation. On an annual basis, the IAC calculates a statewide cost-per-square-foot (cost/SF) average for construction based on a review of recent school construction projects. This cost/SF average is used to determine estimated project costs and, ultimately, State funding participation in these costs. At the time of this report, the State supports a cost of \$385/SF for eligible building construction costs, with an additional 19% for site development; a total of \$458.15/SF. The IAC also determines, based on various factors, the percentage of eligible construction costs that will be shared by the State and each local government. This cost share percentage factor is updated at least once every three years. Currently the State participates in 79% of the funding for eligible construction costs for school construction projects in Washington County.

The following is a comparison of the relative costs of constructing replacement facilities at the current locations of Hickory and Fountain Rock versus constructing a single replacement facility, the proposed Downsville Pike Elementary School.

## **CONSTRUCTION OF A REPLACEMENT HICKORY ELEMENTARY AT THE EXISTING SITE**

For the purposes of comparison, this report assumes that a replacement facility would be constructed at the existing Hickory site. This replacement school would be a two-round facility, with a gross area of 47,972 square feet and an enrollment capacity of 314 students. The estimated cost to design, construct, and furnish a new Hickory Elementary School at the existing site is \$32,058,000 (APPENDIX). The WCBOE does not currently own a separate parcel, nor does it have funds in its budget to purchase such land in proximity to the existing Hickory site to serve as an alternate site location. Therefore, this analysis does not include additional costs for the purchase and development of a new site.

A replacement facility would be proposed over a complete modernization/addition to the current facility for the following reasons:

- **Configuration of the school and amenities on the site.**
  - The existing school is 1-story and, in conjunction with the current parking/access drives/playfields, uses up a significant portion of the 10.23-acre site. Adding a single-story addition to this facility would result in the further reduction of the already limited play areas, exacerbate the current parking issues, and would likely increase storm water mitigation requirements per the new regulations.
  - A replacement school could be located on the site to provide the greatest overall benefit.
- **Building Footprint**
  - Per the formulas in the IAC's APG and the Gross Area Baseline Calculator a 47,972 SF facility would be optimal for a two-round, 314 student school. The existing 39,571 SF facility would not structurally support additional floor levels in order to build vertically within the same footprint without major modifications. These modifications, including significant foundation and structural enhancements to the older facility, would be cost prohibitive.
  - A replacement school could be built with multiple stories, reducing the building footprint on this small site. A smaller, more compact footprint could reduce the amount of new stormwater control devices needed.
- **Floor elevations**
  - The existing facility is spread out on multiple different elevations, connected by ramps and stairs that do not meet current ADA guidelines. Significant modification of these areas including motorized lifts, design (layout) alterations, etc. would be required and may be cost prohibitive.
  - A replacement school could be built to eliminate accessibility issues from the start.
- **Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)**
  - The current facility has HVAC systems that are distributed through the school in multiple overhead mechanical penthouse spaces. The original design of the school did not seem to take into account the future access requirements that would be needed to replace these systems. In some cases, removal and replacement of the equipment would require the demolition of a portion of the roof or the removal of interior masonry walls. Further, current building code requires large ventilation units, which would not fit into these small mechanical penthouse spaces, creating the need to determine alternative locations for new HVAC equipment.
  - A replacement school would be designed to coordinate the installation of new HVAC equipment without compromise or additional costs associated with existing building constraints.
- **Windows and natural lighting**
  - The existing building has very few windows, with interior classrooms that have no access to natural light. A renovation would need to include costly solutions to effectively bring outdoor light into all classrooms.
  - The design of a replacement building would be able to incorporate natural lighting.
- **Existing limitations**
  - The limitations of the existing building would cause inefficiencies in a modernized building. Important



instructional adjacencies may not be accomplished when having to work within the footprint of the existing building. Some core areas (kitchen/cafeteria, media center, administrative area) would need to be moved from their current odd shaped, undersized, and inefficient locations into the addition while their former locations would not be suitable for educational purposes.

- The design of a replacement building would be able to allocate costly square footage more efficiently.

- **Relative cost**

- Based on the age and condition of the existing building, the cost to renovate and add on to the existing building is essentially identical to new construction with greater unknowns and the potential for additional costs and building layout inefficiencies inherent to renovation projects.

There are other issues that would be a common to both a renovation or replacement school project at the current site:

- **Relocation of students during construction**

- Based on the size, geography, and layout of the Hickory Elementary site, it would be recommended that students be relocated to an offsite location during the construction period.
- For a renovation/addition, there is not adequate space to perform the construction and install portable classrooms in sufficient quantity to house a portion of the school population, maintain vehicular traffic patterns, and maintain safe access to all parts of the occupied complex.
- A new facility constructed on-site would require the demolition of the existing facility before the new construction could start.
- With limited space in nearby schools, students would most likely be housed in portable classrooms on the site of a different school or schools. Relocation of students would be disruptive to the Hickory population, as well as the student population of the receiving school. Resources such as food service and transportation would be strained during the period of construction. It is estimated that the relocation and temporary housing costs would be approximately \$4,000,000.

- **Road/access improvements**

- Offsite improvements at US Route 11 would be required. Vehicular traffic turning into/coming out of Hickory School Road is currently not as safe as desired for an educational facility. A replacement or renovation project with increased seat capacity at the Hickory Elementary School site should include a traffic light and turning lanes from Route 11. Based on discussions with Washington County staff, these offsite road improvements would cost approximately \$750,000 and would not be eligible for State funding.

- **Water line improvements**

- The existing building does not have a sprinkler system for fire protection, and the current waterline is not of sufficient size to support both the domestic water and fire safety system needs. Both construction scenarios would require a complete new (upgraded) single service line, or a new separate service line from the water main to meet these needs.

The above costs and considerations identified above are shown in the Hickory Elementary School replacement budget of \$32,058,000 that can be found in the **APPENDIX**. Assuming that the State would participate fully in this project, \$17,363,000 of the project's cost would come from State sources, with Washington County supporting the \$14,695,000 balance of required funding.

## **CONSTRUCTION OF A REPLACEMENT FOUNTAIN ROCK ELEMENTARY AT THE EXISTING SITE**

For the purposes of comparison, this report assumes that a replacement facility would be constructed at the existing 16.6-acre Fountain Rock site. This replacement school would be a two-round facility, with a gross area of 47,972 square feet and an enrollment capacity of 314 students. The estimated cost to design, construct, and furnish a new Fountain Rock Elementary School at the existing site is \$35,274,000 (**APPENDIX**). The WCBOE does not currently own a separate parcel,

nor have in its budget funds to purchase such land in proximity to the existing Fountain Rock site to serve as an alternate location. Therefore, this analysis does not include additional costs for the purchase and development of a new site.

A replacement facility would be proposed over a complete modernization/addition to the current facility for the following reasons:

- **Phased Construction**

- A renovation/addition would require phased construction, with portable classrooms brought to the site to house students while portions of the school are being renovated. Aside from the additional cost for temporary classrooms, phased construction is detrimental to the educational environment, with numerous distractions and disruptions to daily activities. Phased construction also requires more time to build, lengthening the period of time that these disruptions would occur.
- Based on the size of the Fountain Rock site, a replacement school could be constructed while keeping the existing school open during construction. While some activities (outdoor play) would be affected, and there would be noise, etc. from the construction site, the disruptions to most daily activities could be kept to a minimum, and for a shorter period of time.

- **Existing limitations**

- The limitations of the existing building would cause inefficiencies in a renovated building. Important instructional adjacencies may not be accomplished when having to work within the footprint of the existing building.
- The design of a replacement building would be able to allocate costly square footage more efficiently.

- **Building Footprint**

- Per the formulas in the IAC's APG and the Gross Area Baseline Calculator, a 47,972 SF facility would be optimal for a two-round, 314 student school. The existing 35,318 SF facility would not structurally support additional floor levels in order to build vertically within the same footprint without major modifications. These modifications, including significant foundation and structural enhancements to the older facility, would be cost prohibitive.
- A replacement school could be built with multiple stories, reducing the building footprint on this small site. A smaller, more compact footprint could reduce the amount of new stormwater control devices needed.

- **Relative cost**

- Based on the age and condition of the existing building, the cost to renovate and add on to the existing building is essentially identical to new construction with greater unknowns.
  - For a renovation, the overall project budget would need to include the cost for temporary classroom facilities that would be needed during the renovation. The portable classrooms that would be required could cost approximately \$2,000,000, with that figure subject to increase, due to many different unknown factors at this time.
  - For a replacement school, temporary sewer disposal costs would need to be included in the project budget, as the location of the septic field would require its removal during the construction of the new facility. The cost for a temporary holding tank and pumping during the construction period is estimated to be \$200,000.

There are other issues that would be common to both a renovation or replacement school project:

- **Public water and sewer connections**

- Any project to renew Fountain Rock Elementary at its current location will require a large capital allocation for a new public water and sewer service to be brought to the site. The water service would either be required to be sufficient in pressure and volume to support a fire suppression (sprinkler) system for a new building of the proposed size, or a large storage tank and/or fire pump would be required. Based on

discussions with Washington County staff, the cost of bringing public utilities to the site is estimated to be \$8,000,000. The current Fountain Rock site is located outside of the proposed service area of both public water and sewer. Based on this zoning, it was noted that it would be a major undertaking, and a potentially lengthy process, to have the service areas modified to include this site for public utilities. The estimate may reflect lower than actual costs as rights-of-way would be needed/negotiated with some private landowners to bring the utilities to the site.

All of the costs and considerations identified above are shown in the Fountain Rock replacement budget of \$35,274,000 that can be found in the **APPENDIX**. Assuming that the State would participate fully in this project, \$17,363,000 of the project's cost would come from State sources, with Washington County supporting the \$17,911,000 balance of required funding.

## **CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW DOWNSVILLE PIKE ELEMENTARY**

The estimated cost to design, construct, and furnish a new four-round Downsville Pike Elementary School is \$45,294,000 (**APPENDIX**). Downsville Pike Elementary School is proposed as a four-round facility, with a gross area of 78,539 square feet and an enrollment capacity of 628 students. The facility's design would include slightly oversized core spaces that will be large enough to accommodate an eventual build-out to a five-round, 785 student capacity school facility. This additional space would only be needed if moderate enrollment growth continues to occur in applicable areas of Washington County. Like Jonathan Hager Elementary School, this flexibility would allow for a one-round addition if increased capacity is needed in the future, at a minimal cost. The student enrollment trends are discussed in more detail in this report in: **COMAR Factor I – [COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(1)] "Student Enrollment Trends"**.

This cost estimate includes the cost of the building and site development but does not require additional cost for the purchase of land as the proposed site is already owned by the WCBOE. The Downsville Pike site has been approved for use by the State Clearinghouse and the IAC. The cost estimate includes a traffic signal to be installed at the intersection of Downsville Pike and Sterling Road where a proposed entrance would be located. This new entrance onto the site would be the primary bus entrance, with the existing Downsville Pike entrance likely serving as a parent/visitor entrance in conjunction with it continuing to be a primary entrance to the existing Center for Educational Services facility. Separate bus/parent entrances are key to the safety of students/staff. Any additional offsite work would be assumed to be covered by the County.

The Downsville Pike Elementary School estimate does not include any cost for the demolition or modification to either Hickory or Fountain Rock beyond the stabilization of each building. One benefit of constructing the new Downsville Pike Elementary School at a site separate from the two existing schools is that no additional funding would be needed for portable or temporary classrooms. Construction at a separate location will result in less disruption to students, parents, and staff of Hickory and Fountain Rock during the project. New furniture and equipment and existing teacher supplies can all be moved into the new facility prior to opening, further minimizing potential disruption. Assuming that the State will participate fully in this project, \$28,426,000 of the project's cost would come from State sources, with Washington County supporting the \$16,868,000 balance of required funding.

## **COMPARING PROJECT COSTS**

A comparison of the cost to design, construct, and furnish two new schools at Hickory and Fountain Rock versus a new Downsville Pike Elementary School is shown in **CHART 12**. It is noted that either scenario results in the same number of total seats, 628 at one (1) facility versus 628 (314+314) at two (2) facilities. Based on current estimates, it would cost approximately \$22,038,000 less to build the Downsville Pike Elementary School than to build replacement facilities at both Hickory and Fountain Rock. The total building area of two (2) replacement facilities would be 17,405SF more than a single replacement facility at Downsville Pike. That delta in building area, coupled with a potential savings in total site acreage to maintain (26.85 acres), could result in significantly less maintenance required to serve the same number of students. The savings would be split between State and local capital funding, meaning approximately \$15,738,000 in local capital resources and \$6,300,000 in State capital funding could be diverted to other projects.

While the enrollment projected for Fountain Rock, Hickory, and adjacent elementary facilities would likely be sufficient to support the two (2) replacement construction projects (at Fountain Rock and Hickory), the IAC may not be able to support maximum funding for the concurrent construction of replacement facilities for both Hickory and Fountain Rock at the same time based on normal State funding levels allocated to Washington County. While the Built to Learn Act funding could potentially help mitigate this issue, based on the additional State costs identified (\$6,300,000), it may not fully resolve it. As previously discussed, connecting the Fountain Rock site to public utilities would be a significant undertaking/process within the County that could be lengthy. Therefore, the construction of one of the replacement schools (most likely Fountain Rock) would be delayed until these issues could be rectified, and/or more local capital resources could be supplemented to address this issue.

While it is not currently the plan, staff was asked to review the construction cost implications of building a five-round, 785 student capacity Downsville Pike Elementary School facility, rather than building a four-round school with potential for future growth. To make an equitable comparison, a similar number of total seats would need to be studied for the onsite replacement of Hickory and Fountain Rock. For the purposes of this analysis, it was assumed that Hickory would be replaced with a three-round, 471 student capacity school, while Fountain Rock would be replaced with a 2-round, 314 student capacity school – with the total seat capacity generated by these two projects being 785. Based on these assumptions, the overall cost of the Downsville Pike Elementary School project would increase by \$7,082,000. Even with that increase, it would cost \$24,275,000 less to construct a single five-round Downsville Pike Elementary School than to construct two schools with equivalent capacity at Hickory and Fountain Rock. Of the \$7,082,000 in increased costs, \$4,586,000 would come from State CIP and \$2,496,000 from local CIP funding.

## OPERATING COSTS

The operating cost comparisons can be broken down into the following categories:

- Staffing
- Utilities
- Maintenance
- Transportation
- Food Services

### STAFFING

Closing Hickory and Fountain Rock, and subsequently opening the new Downsville Pike Elementary School, will result in estimated annual salary savings of \$504,749 (CHART 13). Salary savings are derived through an estimated reduction in various staffing needs by six and a half (6.5) full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. The staff reduction consists of one (1) less Principal (offset by one (1) additional Assistant Principal), five and a half (5.5) less instructional positions, and one (1) less custodial position. **While overall staffing needs will be reduced, no job loss is expected to occur as employees will be redistributed throughout the system to fill other positions that open annually due to attrition and retirements.** The estimated reductions assume that all grant-funded positions, like Title I, tutoring, etc., would move to the new school or be re-deployed to another school within the school system.

CHART 13 compares the minimum number of projected staff reductions resulting from the closing of Hickory and Fountain Rock coupled with the opening of Downsville Pike Elementary School. The estimated cost savings related to the projected staffing reductions were generated by the Finance Department and conservatively use entry level salary cost estimates for each position included. The cost of health benefits, as well as FICA, and workers compensation costs, are also included in the evaluation. The cost of health benefits was assumed at the individual rate tier. The staffing cost analysis also assumes that all grant-funded positions and programs that WCPS currently deploys to Hickory and Fountain Rock will still be utilized either at Downsville Pike Elementary School or redistributed to other WCPS facilities that would qualify for the funding.

This staffing comparison is based on the existing staffing levels at Hickory and Fountain Rock and the projected staffing needs of Downsville Pike Elementary School. If replacement facilities are built at Hickory and Fountain Rock, it would result in the need for additional personnel, not a reduction, due to redundant positions needing to be filled.

## **UTILITIES**

The closing of Hickory and Fountain Rock and the opening of Downsville Pike Elementary School will save WCPS approximately \$16,854 in annual utility costs (**CHART 14**). This figure is determined using the current actual utility costs recorded at Hickory and Fountain Rock over the past year compared to the estimated utility costs for the New Downsville Pike Elementary School. Utility costs vary throughout WCPS facilities based upon a variety of factors. These factors can be as simple as the overall size of the facility, or as complicated as the energy efficiency of the building's envelope (roofs/windows/walls, etc.), the type of heating fuel, the type of HVAC system, or the efficiency of the lighting system(s) employed at each facility.

**CHART 14** shows the breakdown of the actual annual utility costs at Hickory and Fountain Rock. The data indicates that the two schools' combined annual utility costs are \$109,531. The proposed new Downsville Pike Elementary School will be designed and constructed, in compliance with state law, to achieve the United States Green Building Council's "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design" (LEED) Silver Certification. To meet the requirements of the LEED certification, the building must meet specific energy efficiency standards. This will most likely result in the employment of a Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) HVAC system, or a system that will achieve similar results in energy efficiency for this building.

The two (2) newest WCPS elementary facilities are Jonathan Hager Elementary and Sharpsburg Elementary. Both of these facilities utilize a VRF HVAC system and other energy saving features. The annual utility cost of Jonathan Hager Elementary, a 65,433 SF facility that opened in 2016, is \$79,830 or \$1.22 per SF and includes natural gas. In 2020, the newest WCPS elementary facility, Sharpsburg Elementary, opened. The annual utility cost of this 60,054 SF facility was \$68,460 or \$1.14 per SF and includes propane. The average cost of these two (2) newer facilities is \$1.18 per SF and is used in this report to estimate the annual utility cost of the proposed new elementary school. Because of continued advances in HVAC technology, it is reasonable to expect that Downsville Pike Elementary School will meet or exceed the energy efficiency performance of both Jonathan Hager Elementary and Sharpsburg Elementary. However, for the purpose of this report, the average cost (\$1.18/SF) between these two (2) VRF facilities was used to ensure that the comparison is conservative and would not overstate perceived future efficiencies. Therefore, it can be extrapolated that the proposed 78,539 square foot Downsville Pike Elementary School will use approximately \$92,676.02 annually in utility costs ( $78,539 \text{ SF} \times \$1.18/\text{SF} = \$92,676.02$ ). Based on the above information, annual savings in the approximate amount of \$16,854 may be realized ( $\$109,531$  (*Hickory ES + Fountain Rock ES actual utility costs*) -  $\$92,676.02$  (*Downsville Pike ES estimated utility costs*) = \$16,854.98) (**CHART 14**).

For reference and comparison, **CHART 14** also details comparative costs of new replacement schools at both Hickory and Fountain Rock versus the proposed new Downsville Pike Elementary School. As all three (3) of these proposed facilities would likely be constructed with a VRF HVAC system, the utility cost of \$1.18 per SF is assumed to be the same. Based on this comparison, and because the Downsville Pike Elementary School can create the same seating capacity with less square footage, it is estimated that the Downsville Pike facility would generate \$20,537.90 less in annual utility costs than if Fountain Rock and Hickory were replaced or renovated on their respective sites.

## **MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS**

Closing Hickory and Fountain Rock and opening Downsville Pike Elementary School will save WCPS approximately \$36,000 in annual maintenance and operations costs as compared to the same costs at individual replacement schools at both sites (**CHART 15**).

Maintenance and operations costs at individual facilities can be difficult to quantify for a variety of reasons. Fixed, sunk, and variable costs can all fluctuate year to year and facility to facility. For example, if the well pump at Fountain Rock Elementary would fail for a period of time during a school year, bottled water would be an additional variable cost for that specific school year. For the purposes of this analysis, the focus will be on the comparative costs to maintain and operate new facilities at all three (3) sites because the current conditions at Hickory and Fountain Rock are such that a fair assessment of relative costs could be highly skewed. Additionally, it would be unreasonable to compare operation/maintenance costs of a single school (Downsville Pike Elementary School) that will serve 628 students versus two (2) existing schools that currently serve a combined 539 students.

The analysis would be further complicated if renovation of the current Fountain Rock and Hickory facilities is considered because the identified deferred maintenance costs for Hickory and Fountain Rock total over \$4.1 million, with additional deferred maintenance costs added every year. Additionally, minimally addressing ADA deficiencies at both schools would cost approximately \$320,000. None of the above expenditures, if realized, would address the deficiencies of the instructional spaces that have been discussed elsewhere in this report. The age or condition of school buildings is discussed in more detail in this report in: [COMAR Factor II – \[COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B\(2\)\] “Age or Condition of School Buildings”](#).

Focusing on new facilities at each site, **CHART 15** offers a comparative analysis of two types of costs: Operations and Maintenance.

## **OPERATION COSTS**

Operation costs are those relatively fixed costs associated with the day-to-day “ordinary” care of a building, such as:

- Trash removal
- Phone service
- Mail distribution
- Security
- Custodial supplies (toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, etc.)
- Facility specific supplies (bottled water)
- Mowing of grounds
- Snow removal

In studying the cost of the items listed above, staff from the Department of Maintenance and Operations determined an “average cost-per-SF” for the entire County. The average 2022-2023 school year cost-per-SF for operations was calculated to be \$0.73 per/SF. As was discussed above, the total square footage of the two replacement schools would exceed the square footage of the proposed new Downsville Pike Elementary School, though they would have the same SRC. **CHART 15** shows that, opening two (2) replacement schools in lieu of a single facility would result in approximately 17,405 SF more of building space to maintain and approximately \$12,706 more in annual operation costs.

## **MAINTENANCE COSTS**

Maintenance costs are those expenditures related to unscheduled, but not unexpected, equipment and system failures, as well as preventive maintenance (expected) costs, including labor, materials, tools, equipment, travel expenditures/costs/fuel, etc.. Again, it would not be reasonable to compare the maintenance costs of older facilities against newer ones. It is understood that new schools initially require little or no maintenance, other than preventative items (i.e. air filter changes, etc.). Over time these initial savings are offset by required repairs due to age, and thus an average repair cost (over the life of the building) is the most accurate way to consider this analysis. It is further accepted that having fewer facilities or less overall square footage to maintain will likely reduce the number of reactive or emergency repairs required annually. It can also be assumed that the majority of annual maintenance costs are fixed (i.e. preventative maintenance activities), and with fewer reactive or emergency repairs to attend to, staff from the Department of Maintenance and Operations can focus on completing preventative maintenance activities across the school system.

Based on actual maintenance costs from the 2021-2022 school year, WCPS spent \$1.35/SF to perform general maintenance operations on its schools. CHART 15 shows that, based on Downsville Pike Elementary School having less building area than the two (2) replacement schools, annual maintenance costs would be reduced by \$23,497 through a decision to construct Downsville Pike Elementary School.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Closing Hickory and Fountain Rock and opening Downsville Pike Elementary School will result in little or no changes to the cost of student transportation over time. Conservatively, this study considers changes to transportation costs to be negligible.

The overall student transportation conditions are discussed in more detail in this report in: **COMAR Factor III – [COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(3)] “Transportation”**.

Based on an analysis of the transportation needs of the proposed new school and current vehicular and personnel resources, the Transportation Department does not expect additional vehicles, routes, or drivers will be needed to serve Downsville Pike Elementary School, and that the cost impact would therefore be neutral.

As was stated above, all Hickory students who reside in the attendance zone receive transportation. Some Hickory students and families reside within the non-transportable area of an adjacent school, and could be reassigned to that school, without the need for transportation, if Hickory is closed and Downsville Pike Elementary School is opened. This could result in cost-savings for the Transportation Department. However, it would not be fair to assume the outcome of a future attendance zone realignment prior to WCBOE review and action. As a result, this report assumes that all Hickory and Fountain Rock students will continue to qualify for transportation if Downsville Pike Elementary School opens.

Additionally, it is not possible at this time to ascertain when and how fast residential development will occur in certain areas of Washington County, and how that growth would impact future school assignments. Based on the current economic conditions and sporadic growth of residential development, it is prudent to consider that there could be additional transportation costs or savings incurred for any facility or facilities in the future. Likewise, it is possible that if student enrollment growth occurs in certain geographic areas, capital improvement plans and support services (staff, transportation, etc.) all may need to be adjusted. Therefore, this report takes a conservative approach and determines that any change in the cost of transportation over time is currently minimal, and should be considered zero.

## **FOOD SERVICES**

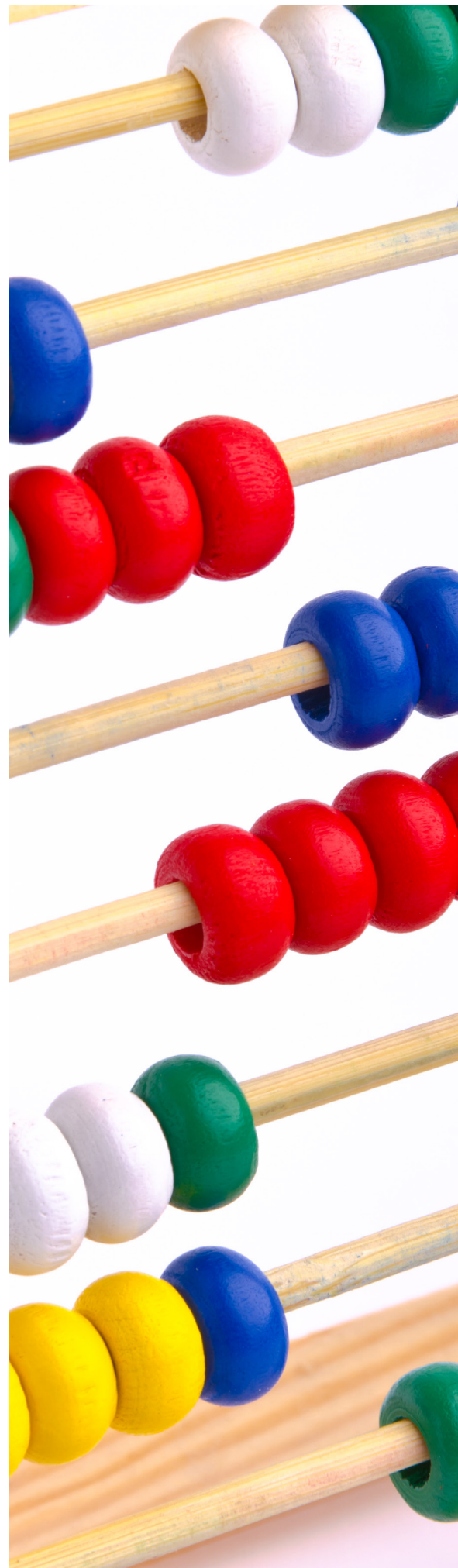
Closing Hickory and Fountain Rock and opening Downsville Pike Elementary School will save the Department of Food and Nutrition Services approximately \$24,000 annually.

The Department of Food and Nutrition Services considered the impact that closing Hickory and Fountain Rock, coupled with opening Downsville Pike Elementary School, would have on its operations. Based on the data provided, and through efficiency of a larger kitchen, the annual labor savings would be realized through the reduction of one (1) full-time kitchen manager. This cost was partially offset by the anticipated need to add one (1) half-time food service assistant based on the increased number of students. This analysis between the new Downsville Pike Elementary School and Hickory and Fountain Rock is conservative and likely presents a lower potential cost savings as compared to the staffing that would be needed at two (2) larger replacement elementary facilities at the Hickory and Fountain Rock elementary school sites. As Food and Nutrition Services is its own Business Unit, the annual savings identified were not included in the staffing savings shown in CHART 13. **While overall Food and Nutrition Services staffing needs would be reduced, it is believed that no job loss will occur as the identified position would be redistributed to another facility to fill an open position due to attrition and retirement.**

## CONCLUSION

The information presented in this section for **COMAR Factor VI** indicates that a financial benefit will result from closing Hickory and Fountain Rock and opening Downsville Pike Elementary School. As shown in **CHART 16**, annual operational savings are conservatively estimated to be \$580,000, resulting in \$5,800,000 in savings in the first 10 years after Downsville Pike Elementary School opens. Adding these savings to the \$22,038,000 in construction savings, a total of \$27,838,000 in savings through fiscal year 2038 can be realized based on the decision to construct Downsville Pike Elementary School and close Hickory and Fountain Rock, assuming costs remain static and the project is completed on schedule.

To put these numbers into perspective, the estimated annual operational cost savings (\$580,000) could fund at least six (6) additional teachers at current salaries. The identified one-time total construction cost savings of \$22,038,000 includes a potential \$15,738,000 in savings to local taxpayers that can be reallocated to other needs.





# COMAR FACTOR VII

## STUDENT RELOCATION COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(7)

**Closing Hickory and Fountain Rock and opening Downsville Pike Elementary School for the 2027-2028 school year will result in needing to create a new attendance zone for Downsville Pike Elementary School and realign the attendance zones of adjacent schools. Students who currently attend Hickory and Fountain Rock will attend Downsville Pike Elementary School and other elementary schools with adjacent attendance zones. Likewise, students in schools adjacent to Hickory and Fountain Rock may also be relocated, depending on the outcome of future attendance zone realignments associated with the opening of Downsville Pike Elementary School.**

The creation or modification of attendance zones will be accomplished in strict accordance with WCBOE Policy JCA “*Establishment of School Attendance Areas*” and the accompanying Administrative Regulation JCA-R “*Establishment of School Attendance Areas Regulations*”. For convenience, Administrative Regulation JCA-R is included in the **APPENDIX** of this Report. No decision on the alteration of attendance zones will be made without public input, and the WCBOE has the additional option of issuing a charge to the citizen-based Facilities and Enrollment Advisory Committee (FEAC) to propose appropriate attendance zone realignments to the Board and Superintendent for consideration. In lieu of a determination of the final attendance zone alignments for the new school and adjacent schools, the following can be brought forward for consideration:

1. Hickory and Fountain Rock currently have no students who reside in “Non-transported Areas” (as defined in Factor III and WCBOE Administrative Regulation EEA-R, Paragraph 1).
2. Some students who currently attend Hickory live within the non-transported area for Lincolnshire Elementary. These students will most likely attend Lincolnshire Elementary.
3. The remaining students who currently attend Hickory will attend Downsville Pike Elementary School when it opens, or other adjacent schools.
4. Most students who currently attend Fountain Rock Elementary will attend Downsville Pike Elementary School when it opens. Some will attend other adjacent schools.
5. Students who attend schools with attendance zones adjacent to the current Hickory and Fountain Rock boundaries may be reassigned, depending on the enrollment pressures that exist or are projected at the time new attendance zones are determined. Likewise, these same schools may receive students from other adjacent schools, including Hickory and Fountain Rock, for the same reason.
6. The attendance zones for Fountain Rock and Hickory are wholly within the Springfield Middle School and Williamsport High School attendance zones. The elementary attendance zone realignments made necessary by the closure of Fountain Rock and Hickory will not, on their own, affect secondary school attendance zones. A copy of Washington County Public Schools’ School Feeder Pattern has been included in the **APPENDIX** of this report.
7. WCPS continuously monitors enrollment and capacity of all WCPS facilities and adjusts attendance zones as required to ensure efficiency. At any time, all WCPS attendance zones (elementary, middle, and high) are subject to revisions based on many different factors including capacity, student needs, facility related issues, etc. With respect to the recommendations of this report, the middle and high school attendance zones are not affected.
8. A copy of all Washington County Elementary School attendance zones has been included in the **APPENDIX** of this report. For those who may be interested in specific addresses or specific attendance zones within Washington County, the Interactive School Locator Map can be accessed at: <https://washcomd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=607e2771d813460d8fb3410a44184965&locale=en&center=-77.9195%3B39.5857&level=9>

The only current WCPS students that would be affected by a student relocation in the 2027-2028 school year are 2022-2023 school year Pre-Kindergartners and Kindergartners, as they will be in Grades 4 and 5, respectively, at that time.

For schools that are not proposed to be closed, the WCBOE has the option to approve an exemption for rising 5th grade students so that they can attend their previous school for their final year.

# COMAR FACTOR VIII

## IMPACT ON COMMUNITY IN GEOGRAPHIC ATTENDANCE AREAS FOR SCHOOL PROPOSED TO BE CLOSED & SCHOOL OR SCHOOLS TO WHICH STUDENTS WILL BE RELOCATING

COMAR Title 13A.02.09.01.B(8)

*Closing Hickory and Fountain Rock will impact each affected community in different ways. WCPS believes that every student deserves the best education possible and that every student should have the opportunity to attend a school facility that matches those expectations. WCPS is committed to working with the existing school communities and parents/guardians to ensure that they remain engaged in the education of their children.*

The community use of both Hickory and Fountain Rock for educational, cultural, or recreational purposes after normal school hours is limited due to physical constraints of both facilities. The open (classroom) space floor plans of both facilities, and the small gymnasium/limited parking of Hickory, hampers the ability to provide special night programs and/or educational uses by staff, students, and parents, as well as educational, recreational, or cultural uses by the community. The new Downsville Pike Elementary School will offer more accessible spaces, both inside the building and outside, for potential community use.

Closing Hickory and Fountain Rock will impact other related schools and their communities through student attendance zone realignments that will be required before Downsville Pike Elementary School can open. One factor that must be considered before attendance zone realignments can occur is an existing school community's income levels. This can be determined by using the Free and Reduced Meal (FARM) eligible student population at a given school. In FY 2023, Washington County as a whole had a FARM-eligible student population of 57.8%. Reassigning students to and from schools with significantly higher or lower poverty rates is a component to consider and review. This specific review occurs and is carefully considered during an attendance zone realignment process. For the purposes of this report, and without final attendance zone configurations determined, demographic averages are the only metric that can be considered.

Ultimately, due to the decreased number of total facilities, the opportunity will exist to provide additional services to all related schools and their associated communities, with varying demographics, through the consolidation of resources. WCPS continuously monitors enrollment and capacity of all WCPS facilities and adjusts attendance zones as required to ensure efficiency. At any time, WCPS attendance zones are subject to revisions based on many different factors including capacity, student needs, resource needs, demographics, facility-related issues, etc.

### **FOUNTAIN ROCK ELEMENTARY**

Fountain Rock is a regional school with a large geographic attendance zone that serves an almost entirely rural area. In FY2023, this community had a FARM-eligible student population of 46.5%. While Fountain Rock has a strong school community, as a regional school it is expected that this community will easily transfer its energy to the proposed Downsville Pike Elementary School or any other school that students from this area would attend. Downsville Pike Elementary School is proposed to be built 2.4 miles north of the existing school, and, for some households, will be closer than Fountain Rock. The total travel time from Fountain Rock to the new Downsville Pike Elementary School is 4 minutes. The opening of Downsville Pike Elementary School, and the resultant elementary attendance zone realignments that occur, will not have any effect on current secondary school attendance zones. The disposition of the Fountain Rock building if the school is closed is uncertain. In the event the facility is no longer needed for WCPS, it could be returned to the Washington County Government as surplus property.

## **HICKORY ELEMENTARY**

Since 1975, Hickory has supported the community area southwest of the City of Hagerstown. This diverse attendance zone is comprised of residential, industrial, highway interchange, and business/commercial zoning. Interstate 70 serves as a physical boundary line to the south, and the westernmost and northernmost portions of this attendance zone are comprised of large commercial/industrial properties (DHL, FedEx, Tractor Supply, Amazon warehouse, Valley Mall, Valley Park Commons, etc.). Geographically, this attendance zone is bisected by US Route 11 and by Interstate 81. The residential community consists of permanent homes along US Route 11, and the large mobile home community (Lakeside park) located on the northwestern area of the attendance zone.

The location of the proposed Downsville Pike Elementary School is 2.7 miles south of Hickory. A number of current Hickory students/community members reside within walking distance of Lincolnshire Elementary and may be reassigned to this school if Hickory closes. For students/community members who are assigned to the proposed Downsville Pike Elementary School, it takes approximately 6 minutes to travel from the Hickory property to the Downsville Pike property.

In FY 2023, the FARM-eligible students for the Hickory Elementary community was 73.6%.

The disposition of the Hickory building if the school is closed is uncertain. If the facility is no longer needed for any WCPS purposes, it could be returned to the Washington County Government as surplus property.

## **ADJACENT ELEMENTARY ATTENDANCE ZONES**

While it is a difficult decision to propose the closing of a school in any community, WCPS is committed to offering the students and families better educational opportunities at the proposed Downsville Pike Elementary School. For students who may be realigned to other adjacent facilities, they would still attend newer WCPS facilities such as Lincolnshire Elementary and/or Williamsport Elementary school (26 and 18 years old, respectively – **CHART 8**), or the newer Jonathan Hager, Rockland Woods, or Sharpsburg elementary schools (7, 15, and 3 years old, respectively). The only adjacent facility that is older than Hickory or Fountain Rock is Emma K. Doub Elementary (53 years old). The communities of these adjacent schools have a combined FY 2023 FARM-eligible student rate of 57.7, which is representative of the countywide FARM average of 57.8%.

# RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

This report recommends closing Fountain Rock and Hickory upon the completion of construction of the new Downsville Pike Elementary School, which will replace those schools. As required by the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) Title 13A.02.09.01, “Adoption of Procedures to Govern School Closing,” the eight (8) COMAR factors contained within the regulation have been thoroughly reviewed and addressed. The school system and local government have an obligation to all stakeholders to create efficient facilities and staffing models, while creating optimal learning opportunities for students. Should the Board of Education agree with this recommendation, the design process for the new school will begin, along with all activities needed to secure State and local funding for the construction of the school. Construction of the Downsville Pike Elementary School project would begin in 2025, with the new school opening for the 2027-2028 school year. Fountain Rock and Hickory would close after the completion of the 2026-2027 school year. Should any delays occur during the planning/construction process, all dates would be adjusted accordingly with public notice. Fountain Rock and Hickory would not close until Downsville Pike Elementary School is open and operational. If the new construction project would not proceed for any future or unknown reason, no school closures would occur.

This recommendation has not been made lightly. The creation of this report was conducted in an earnest effort to improve the educational opportunities for students, while operating facilities in the most cost-effective manner possible given the current realities of funding. The Downsville Pike Elementary School Project has been discussed, planned, and considered by various Washington County elected officials since 2018. Upon taking the position of Superintendent, I met with staff and reviewed past and potential future Capital Improvement Plans during discussions of my vision for advancing the school system. The data that was shared with me for this project identified several potential benefits. It was obvious why this project had been considered for some time based on the age and condition of the two schools slated for closure, the cost effectiveness of building a single replacement facility, and the availability of one-time funding from the State through the Built to Learn Act. I directed staff to update the information and justifications for this proposed project (all of which have been included in this report) and began discussions to determine what was required to move it forward.

Reviewing efficiency of a school system is a constant process that involves many stakeholders, from students, staff, communities, state and county employees, to elected officials. Performance, time, and costs are all part of the metrics that we analyze and quantify in our discussions. The numbers, such as the ability to create savings in operating costs and substantially lower construction costs, are potential benefits that have been identified and substantiated by data in this report. However, these financial benefits are only a part of the rationale for this recommendation.

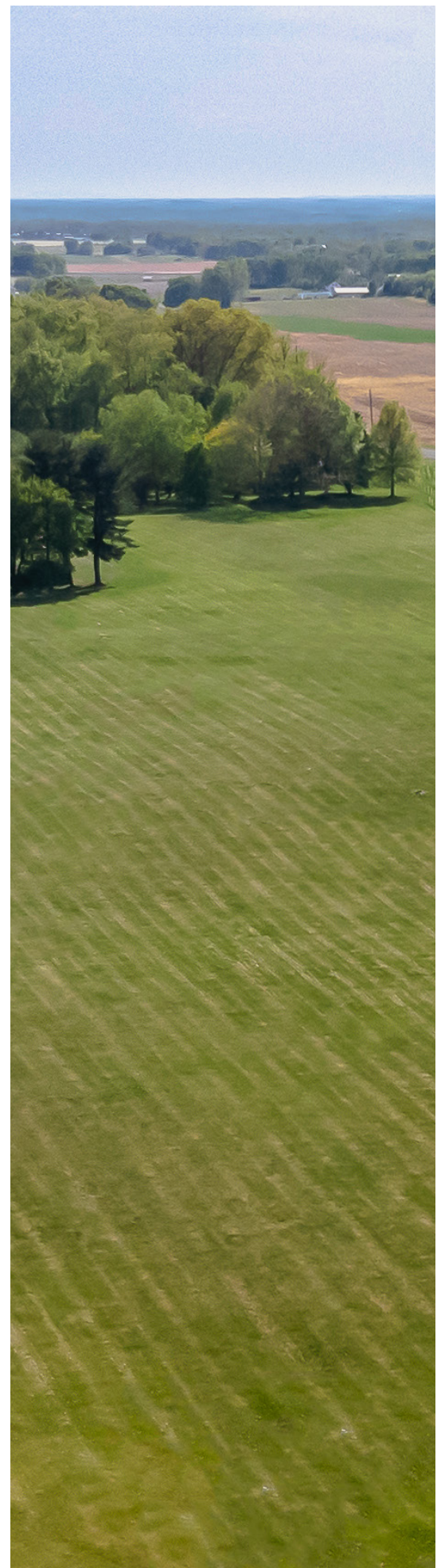


The cold numbers and data do not reflect some of the other, arguably more important, aspects considered in making this recommendation. Significantly improved educational environments and opportunities for students, technology upgrades, facility enhancements for the community, increased student support services, minimal disruption to education during construction, and increased safety/security are some of the vastly important benefits to students and stakeholders that are identified in this report, but that you cannot place a dollar figure on. My focus is always what is in the long-term best interest for the students and community, and I believe this project is part of that answer.

WCBOE currently owns and maintains the property that the proposed Downsville Pike Elementary School would be constructed on. This property has been approved for use as a potential school site by the Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC). Locating the school on the property adjacent to the Center for Education Services does not impact any existing school operations or educational delivery. The proposed construction would not impact neighboring property owners or communities with disruptive easement and/or utility modifications. Through close partnership and collaborative efforts with the Washington County Board of County Commissioners, local funding has been identified for this project. The IAC has previously been in support of the concept of this project and is awaiting local action prior to granting State approval for the project to move forward. Additional state funding through the Built to learn Act and the IAC is available to support this project, within the timeframes proposed. All conditions necessary for a successful project are in place, and I believe now is the time to move forward for the betterment of Washington County.

This recommendation is the starting point. While it speaks to the impact on the affected communities in general, it could not speak to or for the potential concerns of the individual community members and stakeholders. As part of its process, staff recently held a community meeting to listen to concerns, which are being shared with the Board within the **APPENDIX**. As part of its consideration of this recommendation, the Board will be able to hear directly from the community during a Public Hearing. A primary responsibility of the school system is to provide excellent academics and resources that support the social and emotional needs of all students. It has not been lost on this Superintendent, or staff, that the emotional and sensitive nature of closing schools, and realigning school attendance zones, can be some of the most difficult decisions a Board will have to consider. Professional judgment has been utilized to the greatest degree possible in producing this report for the Board's use in making its decision.

It is my firm belief that closing Hickory and Fountain Rock, and constructing the new Downsville Pike Elementary School, is in the best interests of WCPS and the students we educate.



# CHARTS

CHART 01 – Washington County Public Schools Capacity and Enrollment Ranking Information

CHART 02 – Washington County Public Schools 9/30/22 Enrollment Information

CHART 03 – Washington County Public Schools Historic and Projected Enrollment Information

CHART 04 – Washington County Public Schools Elementary Enrollment Projections

CHART 05 – Hickory and Fountain Rock Elementary Utilization

CHART 06 – Washington County Population Data

CHART 07 – Washington County Public Schools 2023 Elementary Facility Assessment

CHART 08 – Washington County Public Schools 2023 Elementary Facility Assessment Summary with Adjusted Age

CHART 09 – Washington County Public Schools Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 State CIP Request

CHART 10 – Washington County Public Schools 2022 Bell Schedule

CHART 11 – Washington County Public Schools 2022 Elementary Transportation Ride Times

CHART 12 – Comparison of Costs between Downsville Pike Elementary and Hickory/Fountain Rock Elementary Replacements

CHART 13 – Comparison of Projected Staffing Between Downsville Pike Elementary and the Current Hickory/Fountain Rock Elementary Schools

CHART 14 – Washington County Public Schools Utility Costs for Impacted

CHART 15 – Washington County Public Schools Maintenance and Operation Costs

CHART 16 – Washington County Public Schools Total Cost Savings and 10-Year Cost Savings

**WCPS Elementary School Ranking  
by State-Rated Capacity (SRC)**

Ranking	Elementary School	Capacity (SRC)
1	Maugansville ES	755
2	Rockland Woods ES	751
3	Pangborn ES	745
4	Salem Ave. ES	722
5	Ruth Ann Monroe PS	692
6	Bester ES	628
7	Eastern ES	572
8	Williamsport ES	568
9	Lincolnshire ES	545
10	Boonsboro ES	499
11	Jonathan Hager ES	471
12	Sharpsburg ES	471
13	Smithsburg ES	431
14	Paramount ES	408
15	Clear Spring ES	386
16	Old Forge ES	366
17	Fountaindale ES*	365
18	Emma K. Doub ES**	297
19	Hancock ES	295
20	Potomac Heights ES	294
21	Cascade ES	278
22	Greenbrier ES	274
<b>23</b>	<b>Fountain Rock ES</b>	<b>271</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Hickory ES</b>	<b>268</b>
25	Pleasant Valley ES	225

**WCPS Elementary School Ranking  
by Official 9/30/22 Enrollments**

Ranking	Elementary School	Official 9/30/2022
1	Salem Ave. ES	687
2	Maugansville ES	676
3	Pangborn ES	673
4	Rockland Woods ES	625
5	Ruth Ann Monroe PS	567
6	Williamsport ES	514
7	Boonsboro ES	509
8	Lincolnshire ES	496
9	Bester ES	494
10	Jonathan Hager ES	469
11	Eastern ES	433
12	Paramount ES	406
13	Fountaindale ES*	378
14	Smithsburg ES	369
15	Clear Spring ES	367
16	Emma K. Doub ES**	354
17	Sharpsburg ES	349
18	Potomac Heights ES	348
<b>19</b>	<b>Hickory ES</b>	<b>328</b>
20	Old Forge ES	327
<b>21</b>	<b>Fountain Rock ES</b>	<b>299</b>
22	Greenbrier ES	256
23	Pleasant Valley ES	212
24	Hancock ES	211
25	Cascade ES	146

\*Little Hub Pre-K students are counted at Fountaindale ES, but physically attend North Hagerstown High

\*Little Eagle Pre-K students are counted at Emma K. Doub ES, but physically attend Boyd J. Michael, III Technical High

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

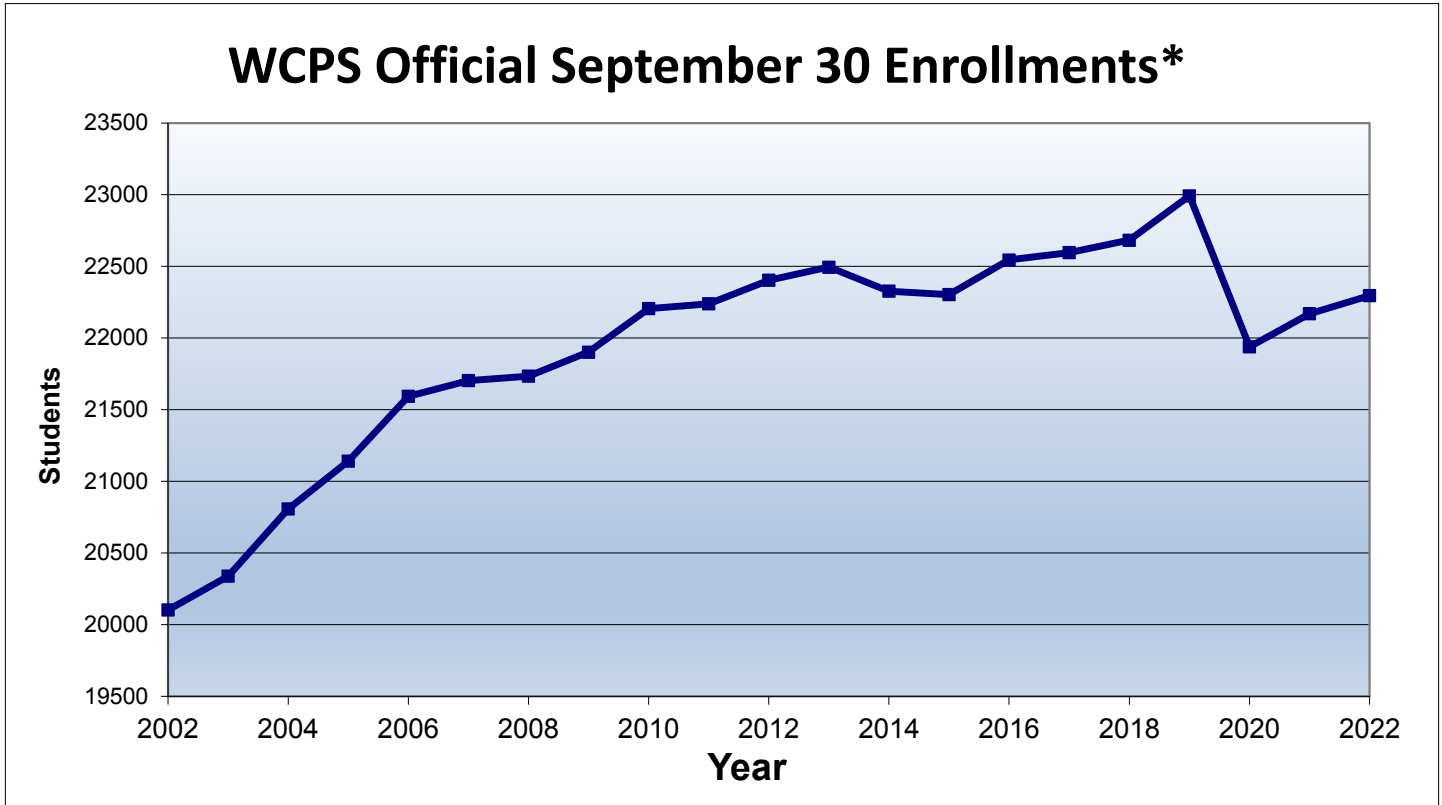
Sept. 30, 2022

**OFFICIAL ENROLLMENT**

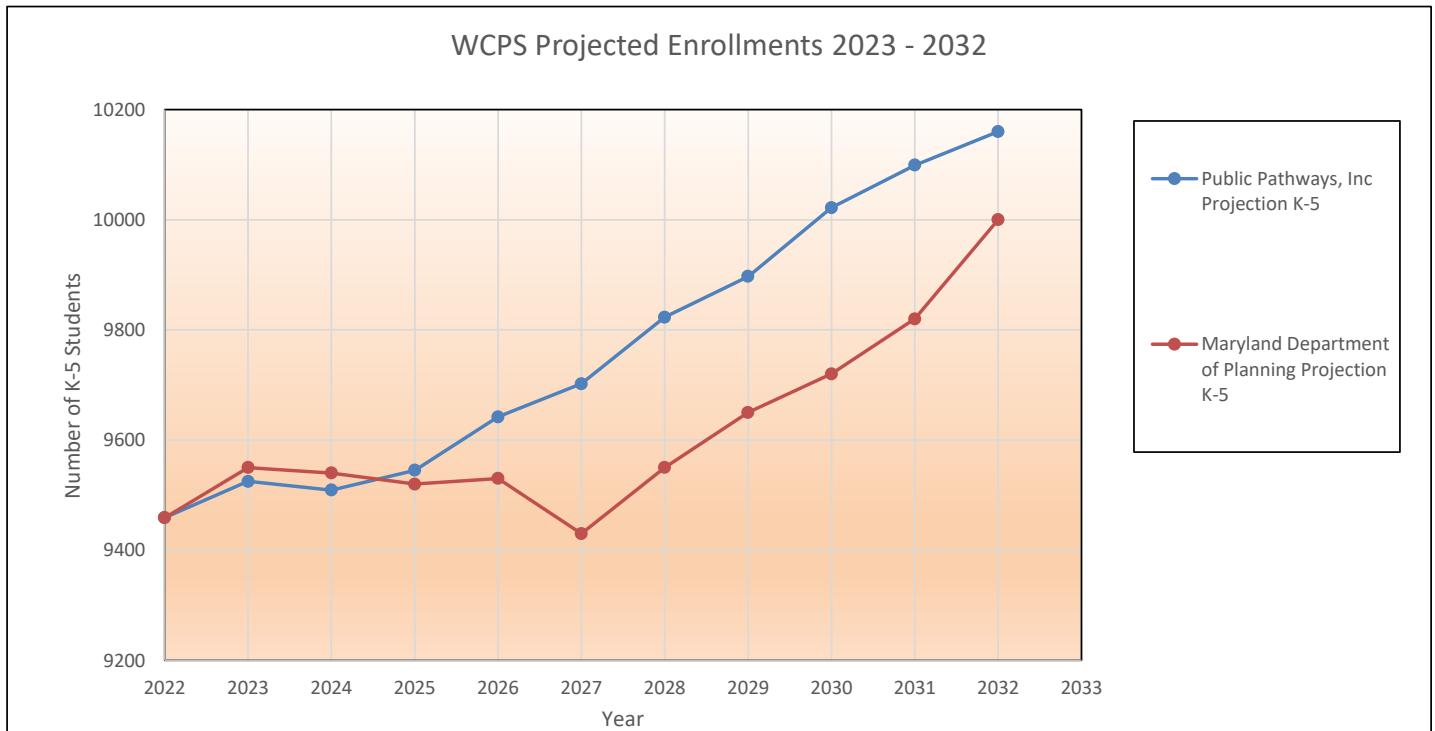
School	Gr.	Pre-K	Kdg.	1	2	3	4	5	Gr K-5 Total	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Gr 6-12 Total	Gr K-12 Total	Gr Pre-K-12 Total
Bester Elementary	Pre-K-5	44	69	71	82	86	71	71	450								0	450	494
Boonsboro Elementary	Pre-K-5	49	52	72	81	85	74	96	460								0	460	509
Cascade Elementary	Pre-K-5	11	19	22	22	20	30	22	135								0	135	146
Clear Spring Elementary	Pre-K-5	37	57	53	46	53	51	70	330								0	330	367
Eastern Elementary	3-5					146	154	133	433								0	433	433
Emma K. Doub Elementary	Pre-K-5	24	42	50	56	64	60	58	330								0	330	354
Fountindale Elementary	Pre-K-5	28	61	46	69	61	58	55	350								0	350	378
Fountain Rock Elementary	Pre-K-5	34	43	48	45	50	31	48	265								0	265	299
Greenbrier Elementary	Pre-K-5	38	39	35	32	37	28	47	218								0	218	256
Hancock Elementary	Pre-K-5	15	24	30	39	35	34	34	196								0	196	211
Hickory Elementary	Pre-K-5	29	53	42	54	46	54	50	299								0	299	328
Jonathan Hager Elementary	Pre-K-5	53	72	78	70	60	75	61	416								0	416	469
Lincolnshire Elementary	Pre-K-5	52	58	82	74	75	87	68	444								0	444	496
Maugansville Elementary	Pre-K-5	81	104	103	96	109	93	90	595								0	595	676
Old Forge Elementary	Pre-K-5	28	46	49	48	46	55	55	299								0	299	327
Pangborn Elementary	Pre-K-5	54	106	111	102	106	107	87	619								0	619	673
Paramount Elementary	Pre-K-5	43	54	66	55	60	72	56	363								0	363	406
Pleasant Valley Elementary	Pre-K-5	24	31	33	27	25	39	33	188								0	188	212
Potomac Heights Elementary	Pre-K-5	33	56	50	57	47	55	50	315								0	315	348
Rockland Woods Elementary	Pre-K-5	63	83	94	92	97	100	96	562								0	562	625
Ruth Ann Monroe Primary	Pre-K-2	111	147	172	137				456								0	456	567
Salem Avenue Elementary	Pre-K-5	71	102	119	94	92	105	104	616								0	616	687
Sharpsburg Elementary	Pre-K-5	40	54	54	38	51	61	51	309								0	309	349
Smithsburg Elementary	Pre-K-5	36	51	54	52	58	62	56	333								0	333	369
Williamsport Elementary	Pre-K-5	50	62	64	76	93	90	79	464								0	464	514
Boonsboro Middle	6-8								0	209	205	196					610	610	610
Clear Spring Middle	6-8								0	115	100	114					329	329	329
E. Russell Hicks Middle	6-8								0	265	273	286					824	824	824
Northern Middle	6-8								0	292	279	277					848	848	848
Smithsburg Middle	6-8								0	183	162	189					534	534	534
Springfield Middle	6-8								0	255	236	257					748	748	748
Western Heights Middle	6-8								0	299	313	291					903	903	903
B.I.S.F.A./V.R.G.A.C. High	9-12								0				93	98	74	77	342	342	342
Boonsboro High	9-12								0				192	242	158	155	747	747	747
Boyd J. Michael III Tech High	11-12								0						285	263	548	548	548
Clear Spring High	9-12								0				120	135	104	92	451	451	451
Hancock Middle-Sr. High	6-12								0	28	37	33	37	34	33	17	219	219	219
N. Hagerstown High	9-12								0				418	447	307	266	1438	1438	1438
Smithsburg High	9-12								0				192	214	158	153	717	717	717
S. Hagerstown High	9-12								0				525	430	309	223	1487	1487	1487
Williamsport High	9-12								0				309	279	191	180	959	959	959
Marshall Street Ed. Ctr.		5	3	2	3	5	1	0	14	2	2	5	6	4	2	14	35	49	54
Job Development Ctr.									0								46	46	46
<b>TOTAL</b>		1053	1488	1600	1547	1607	1647	1570	9459	1648	1607	1648	1892	1883	1621	1486	11785	21244	22297

Pre-K	1053
K-5	9,459
6-8	4,903
9-12	6,882
Grand Totals for K - 12	21,244
Grand Totals for Pre-K - 12	22,297





\* Pre-K thru 12 WCPS 2002 -2022 enrollment data from the Maryland Report Card web page <http://mdreportcard.org>



Note: Projections do not include Pre-Kindergarten students

WASHINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Student Enrollment Projections: 2023-2032

May 16, 2023

	State Rated Capacity	Local Capacity 90%	Projected Sept. 30, 2022*	Projected 2023*	Projected 2024*	Projected 2025*	Projected 2026*	Projected 2027*	Projected 2028*	Projected 2029*	Projected 2030*	Projected 2031*	Projected 2032*
Bester ES	628	565	494	484	468	450	439	442	444	442	443	443	445
Boonsboro ES	499	449	509	488	482	469	465	462	482	495	512	533	547
Cascade ES	278	250	146	150	143	144	143	141	143	142	136	136	139
Clear Spring ES	386	347	367	359	365	367	371	368	361	355	366	362	366
Eastern ES	572	515	433	445	447	451	453	456	470	486	495	504	512
Emma K. Doub ES	297	267	354	363	368	367	378	375	374	370	369	372	371
<b>Fountain Rock ES</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>290</b>
Fountaindale ES	365	329	378	388	388	398	395	401	386	382	379	380	388
Greenbrier ES	274	247	256	251	259	258	263	267	264	262	261	262	261
Hancock ES	295	266	211	195	184	170	159	158	158	156	151	151	150
<b>Hickory ES</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>351</b>
Jonathan Hager ES	471	424	469	500	526	563	591	611	636	656	671	682	692
Lincolnshire ES	545	491	496	498	478	471	465	466	478	485	495	502	509
Maugansville ES	755	680	676	691	708	708	722	735	749	756	776	783	783
Old Forge ES	366	329	327	332	327	330	328	327	331	330	343	350	356
Pangborn ES	745	671	673	692	682	671	666	662	666	670	673	673	669
Paramount ES	408	367	406	413	401	401	405	401	409	411	413	415	415
Pleasant Valley ES	225	203	212	201	196	197	198	197	196	194	201	208	214
Potomac Heights ES	294	265	348	364	367	372	365	367	363	360	350	340	337
Rockland Woods ES	751	676	625	635	635	638	649	660	686	703	715	725	733
Ruth Ann Monroe PS	692	623	567	602	593	609	622	639	647	652	665	672	675
Salem Ave. ES	722	650	687	710	725	750	774	770	782	787	785	780	779
Sharpsburg ES	471	424	349	366	369	379	399	399	397	395	393	388	382
Smithsburg ES	431	388	369	372	363	356	355	353	354	352	360	361	361
Williamsport ES	568	511	514	534	535	535	553	559	568	568	576	579	575
<b>Elementary School Total</b>	<b>11,577</b>	<b>10,422</b>	<b>10,493</b>	<b>10,665</b>	<b>10,649</b>	<b>10,685</b>	<b>10,782</b>	<b>10,842</b>	<b>10,963</b>	<b>11,037</b>	<b>11,162</b>	<b>11,239</b>	<b>11,300</b>

\* FTE student enrollment includes pre-kindergarten students.

Note: These projections assume residential building activity will be approximately 275 homes per year through 2025, and gradually increase over the subsequent 7 years.

<b>Historic Utilization</b>					
Year	Hickory Elementary - SRC =268		Fountain Rock Elementary - SRC = 271		Combined Average
	Actual Enrollment	Actual Utilization as a Percentage of SRC	Actual Enrollment	Actual Utilization as a Percentage of SRC	
2011	227.5	85%	185	68%	77%
2012	235	88%	183	68%	78%
2013	225	84%	188	69%	77%
2014	266	99%	203	75%	87%
2015	264	99%	181	67%	83%
2016*	307	115%	227	84%	99%
2017	299	112%	252	93%	102%
2018	308	115%	250	92%	104%
2019	293	109%	281	104%	107%
2020	297	111%	258	95%	103%
2021	316	118%	281	104%	111%
2022	328	122%	299	110%	116%
2021 and 2022 Average Enrollment =		322	2021 and 2022 Average Enrollment =		290
2021 and 2022 Average % utilization =		120%	2021 and 2022 Average % utilization =		107%

\* 2016 was the first year of a Board of Education approved redistricting that increased under-utilized enrollment capacity at Fountain Rock Elementary and offered enrollment relief to Williamsport Elementary.

<b>Projected Utilization</b>					
Year	Hickory Elementary		Fountain Rock Elementary		Combined Average
	Projected Enrollment	Projected Utilization as a Percentage of SRC	Projected Enrollment	Projected Utilization as a Percentage of SRC	
2023	340	127%	292	108%	117%
2024	341	127%	299	110%	119%
2025	343	128%	288	106%	117%
2026	342	128%	282	104%	116%
2027	347	129%	279	103%	116%
2028	339	126%	280	103%	115%
2029	346	129%	282	104%	117%
2030	348	130%	286	106%	118%
2031	350	131%	288	106%	118%
2032	351	131%	290	107%	119%
Average Projected Utilization =		129%	Average Projected Utilization =		106%

SRC = State Rated Capacity





## 2023 FACILITIES ASSESSMENT SCORE

Category	Score	Numeric Ranking	Elementary School	Adjusted Age
Below Average	60	25	Hickory Elementary	48
	61	24	Hancock Elementary	46
	63	23	Greenbrier Elementary	52
	64	22	Fountain Rock Elementary	46
	65	21	Old Forge Elementary	50
	69	20	Cascade Elementary	69
	69	19	Potomac Heights	51
Average	70	18	Emma K. Doub Elementary	53
	71	17	Fountaindale Elementary	68
	74	16	Pleasant Valley Elementary	33
Above Average	80	15	Boonsboro Elementary	32
	80	14	Eastern Elementary	31
	80	13	Lincolnshire Elementary	26
	81	12	Paramount Elementary	29
	82	11	Clear Spring Elementary	23
	85	10	Williamsport Elementary	18
	84	9	Smithsburg Elementary	26
	86	8	Salem Avenue Elementary	18
	91	7	Maugansville Elementary	15
	91	6	Pangborn Elementary	15
Excellent	91	5	Rockland Woods Elementary	15
	94	4	Ruth Ann Monroe Primary	12
	95	3	Bester Elementary	9
	96	2	Jonathan Hager Elementary	7
	98	1	Sharpsburg Elementary	3

Adjacent Elementary Attendance Zone to Hickory Elementary or Fountain Rock Elementary

LEA: Washington		SUMMARY OF CURRENT PLANNING AND FUNDING REQUESTS										DATE: Revised 02/21/23	
		FISCAL YEAR: 2024											
PRIORITY #	PROJECT TITLE	TOTAL EST. COST	NON-PSCP/IAC FUNDS	TOTAL STATE FUNDS	PRIOR PSCP/IAC FUNDS	CURRENT REQUESTS (\$ OR LP)		Expected Project Requests (enter fiscal year below)					
						FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029		
1	E. Russell Hicks Middle Chiller/Cooling Tower Replacement	\$2,890,000	\$826,000	\$1,864,000	\$0	\$1,864,000							
2	Clear Spring Elementary Boiler Replacement	\$821,000	\$252,000	\$569,000	\$0	\$569,000							
3	Pleasant Valley Elementary HVAC Replacement	\$3,136,000	\$963,000	\$2,173,000	\$0	\$2,173,000							
4	Eastern Elementary Boiler/Chiller Replacement	\$1,609,000	\$494,000	\$1,115,000	\$0	\$1,115,000							
5	Springfield Middle Electrical Distribution Replacement	\$1,078,000	\$331,000	\$747,000	\$0	\$747,000							
6	Hancock Middle/High Electrical Distribution Replacement	\$1,927,000	\$592,000	\$1,335,000	\$0	\$1,335,000							
7	Smithsburg Middle Electrical Distribution Replacement	\$1,426,000	\$438,000	\$988,000	\$0	\$988,000							
8	North Hagerstown High Roof Replacement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0							
9	Lincolnshire Elementary Chiller Replacement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0							
10	Smithsburg Elementary Chiller Replacement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0							
11	Boonsboro Elementary Window/Door Replacement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0							
12	Marshall Street Electrical Distribution Replacement	\$804,000	\$247,000	\$557,000	\$0	\$557,000							
13	FY 2025 Systemic Projects	\$15,680,000	\$4,620,000	\$11,060,000	\$0	\$0	\$11,060,000						
14	BTL - Replacement Elementary School	\$44,096,000	\$15,670,000	\$28,426,000	\$0	\$0	LP	\$12,813,000	\$12,813,000	\$2,800,000			
15	FY 2026 Systemic Projects	\$5,152,000	\$1,518,000	\$3,634,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,634,000						
16	FY 2027 Systemic Projects	\$5,824,000	\$1,716,000	\$4,108,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,108,000						
17	FY 2028 Systemic Projects	\$14,056,000	\$4,141,000	\$9,915,000	\$0	\$0	\$9,915,000						
18	FY 2029 Systemic Projects	\$11,088,000	\$3,267,000	\$7,821,000	\$0	\$0	\$7,821,000						
<b>TOTAL (Last page only)</b>		<b>\$109,387,000</b>	<b>\$35,075,000</b>	<b>\$74,312,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$9,348,000</b>	<b>\$11,060,000</b>	<b>\$16,447,000</b>	<b>\$16,921,000</b>	<b>\$12,715,000</b>	<b>\$7,821,000</b>	<b>\$7,821,000</b>	<b>\$7,821,000</b>

# SCHOOL DAY BELL SCHEDULE

SCHOOL	DOORS OPEN	SCHOOL DAY
ABLE (ACADEMY OF BLENDED LEARNING) Elementary	8:30 AM	8:35 AM - 3:00 PM
ABLE (ACADEMY OF BLENDED LEARNING) Secondary	8:30 AM	8:35 AM - 3:30 PM
ANTIETAM Academy	8:45 AM	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
BARBARA INGRAM School for the Arts	8:30 AM	9:05 AM - 4:30 PM
BESTER Elementary	8:30 AM	9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
BOONSBORO Elementary	7:25 AM	7:55 AM - 2:25 PM
BOONSBORO Middle	8:25 AM	8:35 AM - 3:28 PM
BOONSBORO High	8:20 AM	8:35 AM - 3:30 PM
BOYD J. MICHAEL, III TECHNICAL High	8:45 AM	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
CASCADE Elementary	7:35 AM	7:55 AM - 2:25 PM
CLEAR SPRING Elementary	7:30 AM	7:55 AM - 2:25 PM
CLEAR SPRING Middle	8:15 AM	8:35 AM - 3:30 PM
CLEAR SPRING High	8:15 AM	8:35 AM - 3:30 PM
EASTERN Elementary	8:45 AM	9 : 1 5 AM - 3:45 PM
E. RUSSELL HICKS Middle	7:05 AM	7:20 AM - 2:05 P M
EMMA K. DOUB Elementary	7:50 AM	8: 1 0 AM - 2:40 PM
FOUNTAIN ROCK Elementary	7:10 AM	7:35 AM - 2:05 PM
FOUNTAINDALE Elementary	7:05 AM	7:35 AM - 2:05 PM
GREENBRIER Elementary	7:30 AM	7:50 AM - 2:25 PM
HANCOCK Elementary	7:15 AM	7:40 AM - 2 : 1 0 P M
HANCOCK Middle/High	8:20 AM	8:35 AM - 3:30 PM
HICKORY Elementary	7:50 AM	8:20 AM - 2:50 PM
JONATHAN HAGER Elementary	7:05 AM	7:30 AM - 2:00 PM
LINCOLNSHIRE Elementary	7:50 AM	8:20 AM - 2:55 PM
MARSHALL STREET & JDP	8:15 AM	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
MAUGANSVILLE Elementary	7:40 AM	8: 1 0 AM - 2:40 PM
NORTH Hagerstown High	8:20 AM	8:35 AM - 3:30 PM
NORTHERN Middle	7:05 AM	7:20 AM - 2 : 0 5 P M
OLD FORGE Elementary	7:25 AM	7:55 AM - 2:25 PM
PANGBORN Elementary	7:50 AM	8:20 AM - 2:50 PM
PARAMOUNT Elementary	7:40 AM	8:10 AM - 2:45 PM
PLEASANT VALLEY Elementary	7:10 AM	7:40 AM - 2 : 1 0 P M
POTOMAC HEIGHTS Elementary	8:00 AM	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
ROCKLAND WOODS Elementary	7: 1 0 AM	7:30 AM - 2:00 PM
RUTH ANN MONROE Primary	8:45 AM	9: 1 5 AM - 3:45 PM
SALEM AVENUE Elementary	8:30 AM	8:55 AM - 3:25 PM
SHARPSBURG Elementary	7:20 AM	7:45 AM - 2 : 1 5 P M
SMITHSBURG Elementary	7:25 AM	7:55 AM - 2:25 PM
SMITHSBURG Middle	8:15 AM	8:35 AM - 3:30 PM
SMITHSBURG High	8: 1 5 AM	8:35 AM - 3:30 PM
SOUTH Hagerstown High	8: 1 5 AM	8:35 AM - 3:30 PM
SPRINGFIELD Middle	7:10 AM	7:30 AM - 2: 1 0 PM
WESTERN HEIGHTS Middle	7:05 AM	7:20 AM - 2:05 PM
WILLIAMSPORT Elementary	7:55 AM	8:25 AM - 2:55 PM
WILLIAMSPORT High	8:15 AM	8:35 AM - 3:30 PM



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	LONGEST RIDE	AVERAGE RIDE*
BESTER	11 MINS.	9 MINS.
BOONSBORO	40 MINS.	13 MINS.
CASCADE	65 MINS.	25 MINS.
CLEAR SPRING	73 MINS.	30 MINS.
EASTERN	27 MINS.	13 MINS.
EMMA K. DOUB	24 MINS.	8 MINS.
FOUNTAIN ROCK	62 MINS.	23 MINS.
FOUNTAINDALE	21 MINS.	11 MINS.
GREENBRIER	57 MINS.	25 MINS.
HANCOCK	62 MINS.	22 MINS.
HICKORY	19 MINS.	10 MINS.
JONATHAN HAGER	31 MINS.	15 MINS.
LINCOLNSHIRE	17 MINS.	11 MINS.
MAUGANSVILLE	33 MINS.	13 MINS.
OLD FORGE	52 MINS.	24 MINS.
PANGBORN	25 MINS.	11 MINS.
PARAMOUNT	26 MINS.	11 MINS.
PLEASANT VALLEY	46 MINS.	21 MINS.
POTOMAC HEIGHTS	13 MINS.	9 MINS.
ROCKLAND WOODS	36 MINS.	17 MINS.
RUTH ANN MONROE	27 MINS.	13 MINS.
SALEM AVE	15 MINS.	9 MINS.
SHARPSBURG	60 MINS.	23 MINS.
SMITHSBURG	45 MINS.	14 MINS.
WILLIAMSPORT	35 MINS.	13 MINS.

\*Based on AM routes

Project	Number of Students	Number of Rounds*	State Cost	Local Cost	Total Cost	Total Square Footage of building(s)	Total Acreage to Maintain
<b>Downsville Pike Elementary</b> <i>Constructed at 10435 Downsville Pike</i>	628	4	\$ 28,426,000	\$ 16,868,000	\$ 45,294,000	78,539.00	*****
Cost for Land				\$ -	\$ -		
<b>Total</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$ 28,426,000</b>	<b>\$ 16,868,000</b>	<b>\$ 45,294,000</b>	<b>78,539.00</b>	<b>-</b>
Hickory Elementary Replacement***	314	2	\$ 17,363,000 **	\$ 14,695,000	\$ 32,058,000	47,972.00	10.23
Fountain Rock Elementary Replacement****	314	2	\$ 17,363,000 **	\$ 17,911,000	\$ 35,274,000	47,972.00	16.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$ 34,726,000</b>	<b>\$ 32,606,001</b>	<b>\$ 67,332,000</b>	<b>95,944.00</b>	<b>26.85</b>
<b>Difference in Cost</b>			<b>\$ (6,300,000)</b>	<b>\$ (15,738,000)</b>	<b>\$ (22,038,000)</b>	<b>(17,405)</b>	<b>(26.85)</b>

\* A "Round" is defined as the number of classrooms provided per grade level K-5.

\*\* For comparison, maximum State funding for both Fountain Rock ES and Hickory ES is shown. While current enrollment indicates maximum state funding for both facilities could be expected, it could change over time.

\*\*\* The costs for Hickory ES Replacement DO NOT include the cost of additional land for the site, but do assume temporary buildings to house students during construction (these may be located at a different site during Construction). The Hickory ES costs also assume a traffic light installation at Rte 11/Hickory School Road, and new water service to the building with capacity to support a sprinkler system. The current domestic water line for Hickory ES will not support both domestic water and fire (spinkler) protection services.

\*\*\*\* The costs for Fountain Rock ES Replacement assumes the facility would be built onsite, behind the existing school. It includes a 2 year cost for sewer tank pumping as the septic field would not be useable during construction. It also includes the cost to run public water/sewer (which could take several years of process (easements/design/change of zoning/comprehensive plan/etc. to complete), and tie in to the new facility at the completion of construction. For this report it is assumed that the school could be completed by 2027. Play fields would not be available during construction.

\*\*\*\*\* Washington County Public Schools is currently maintaining the entire property at 10435 Downsville Pike.

Note: All figures are based on FY 2024 cost/square foot numbers for construction and site development as calculated by the Interagency Commission on School Construction and have not been adjusted for inflation.

Comparison of Projected Staffing Between Downslope Pike Elementary and the Current Hickory/Fountain Rock Elementary Schools

Positions	Estimated Staffing (Full-Time Equivalent (FTE))*			Estimated Annual Costs**				
	Current # of FTE's @ Fountain Rock and Hickory elementary schools	Projected FTE Staffing Need @ Downslope Pike Elementary School	Projected FTE Savings	Salary Savings	FICA / WCOMP Savings	Health Benefit Savings	Total Projected Staffing Savings	
Principal	2.00	1.00	1.00	\$100,000	\$8,061	\$10,074	\$118,135	
Assistant Principal	0.00	1.00	(1.00)	(\$80,000)	(\$6,449)	(\$10,074)	(\$96,523)	
Secretary	2.00	2.00	0.00	\$14,000	\$1,129	\$0	\$15,129	
Pre-K Teachers	4.00	4.00	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
K-5 Teachers	27.00	24.00	3.00	\$180,000	\$14,510	\$30,222	\$224,732	
P.E. Teachers	2.00	1.50	0.50	\$30,000	\$2,418	\$5,037	\$37,455	
Music Teachers	1.00	1.00	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Instrumental Music Teachers	0.60	0.60	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Art Teachers	1.00	1.00	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Intervention Teachers	1.00	0.00	1.00	\$60,000	\$4,837	\$10,074	\$74,911	
Engage - Behavior Prog. Teachers	1.00	1.00	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Lead Teachers	1.50	1.00	0.50	\$32,500	\$2,620	\$5,037	\$40,157	
EL Teachers	2.50	2.50	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Enrichment Teachers	1.00	1.00	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Library/Media Teacher	1.50	1.00	0.50	\$30,000	\$2,418	\$5,037	\$37,455	
Guidance Counselors	2.00	2.00	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Special Ed. Teachers	2.50	2.50	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Speech Pathologist	0.35	0.35	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Social Worker - Behavior Prog.	0.50	0.50	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Pre-K Paraprofessional	4.00	4.00	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Engage - Behavior Prog. Paraprofessional	2.50	2.50	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Special Ed. Paraprofessional	1.00	1.00	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
LPN Nurses	1.00	1.00	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Custodians	5.00	4.00	1.00	\$40,000	\$3,224	\$10,074	\$53,298	
Total	66.95	60.45	6.50	\$406,500	\$32,768	\$65,481	\$504,749	

Note: Positive numbers above indicate a "Savings" in cost or staff, a Negative number above indicates "additional" cost or staff.

This analysis identifies that a single Downslope Pike Elementary School will result in a full-time equivalent (FTE) staff savings of 6.5 positions, and a total projected annual cost savings of \$504,749 over the current operation of the Hickory and Fountain Rock elementary schools.

\* Assuming all grant funded positions like Title I, Tutoring, etc. would move to the new school or be redeployed to another school within the school system.

\*\* Using estimated salary savings for positions on the low end of the range and using single health coverage costs of \$10,074, since non-tenured staff would be displaced first.

Building	Current Fountain Rock Elementary	Current Hickory Elementary	New Downsville Pike Elementary
Square Foot (SF)	35,318	39,571	78,530 <i>VRP HVAC*</i>
Water Used (gallons)	N/A	487,100	
Water Cost \$	2,800 \$	3,578.00 \$	
Sub-Total Water Cost \$	2,800.00 \$	3,578.00 \$	
Sewer Used (gallons)	N/A (Septic System)	487,100	
Sub Total Sewer Cost \$	1,750.00 \$	5,138.00 \$	
Electricity Used (kwh)	565,464	743,040	
Sub-Total Electricity Cost \$	41,860.00 \$	54,405.00 \$	
Total Utilities Cost \$	46,410.00 \$	63,121.00 \$	Estimated Utility Cost per SF 92,676.02
Actual Utilities Cost per SF \$	1.31 \$	1.60 \$	1.18 \$

Current Facility Utility Cost Comparison:	
<b>Existing Hickory ES and Fountain Rock ES vs. Proposed Downsville Pike ES (with VRP HVAC System)</b>	
Actual Utility Costs	Estimated Utility Costs
Hickory ES \$ 63,121.00	
Fountain Rock ES \$ 46,410.00	
Sub-total \$ 109,531.00	\$ 92,676.02
New Downsville Pike ES (VRP @ \$1.18/SF) N/A	\$ 16,854.98
	<i>Difference in Annual Cost</i>

Future Utility Cost Comparison:	
<b>New Hickory ES and Fountain Rock ES vs. Proposed Downsville Pike ES (all with VRP HVAC System)</b>	
Actual Utility Costs	Estimated Utility Costs
New 47,972 SF Hickory ES (VRP @ \$1.18/SF) N/A	\$ 56,606.96
New 47,972 SF Fountain Rock ES (VRP @ \$1.18/SF) N/A	\$ 56,606.96
	Sub-total \$ 113,213.92
New Downsville Pike ES (VRP @ \$1.18/SF)	\$ 92,676.02
	<i>Difference in Annual Cost</i>
	\$ 20,537.90

\* Average utility cost per SF for a school with a VRP heating and cooling system is \$1.18 based on Jonathan Hager ES and Sharpsburg ES.

Note: All figures are based on 2023 dollars with no adjustment for inflation.

	Annual Cost/SF for WCPS Operational Costs	Square Footage	Annual Cost
<b>Operation Costs</b>			
Replacement Hickory Elementary	\$ 0.73	47,972	\$ 35,020
Replacement Fountain Rock Elementary	\$ 0.73	47,972	\$ 35,020
	Sub-Total	95,944	\$ 70,039
<b>Proposed New Downsview Pike Elementary</b>	<b>\$ 0.73</b>	<b>78,539</b>	<b>\$ 57,333</b>
	<b>Total Operation Cost Savings</b>		<b>\$ 12,706</b>

	Annual Cost/SF for WCPS Maintenance	Square Footage	Annual Cost
<b>Maintenance Costs</b>			
Replacement Hickory Elementary	\$ 1.35	47,972	\$ 64,762
Replacement Fountain Rock Elementary	\$ 1.35	47,972	\$ 64,762
	Sub-Total	95,944	\$ 129,524
<b>Proposed New Downsview Pike Elementary</b>	<b>\$ 1.35</b>	<b>78,539</b>	<b>\$ 106,028</b>
	<b>Total Maintenance Cost Savings</b>		<b>\$ 23,497</b>

<b>Total Operational Maintenance Cost Savings*</b>	<b>\$ 36,000</b>
	(\$12,706 + \$23,497 = \$36,203)

Note: All figures are based on 2022-2023 school year costs, in 2023 dollars with no adjustment for inflation.

<b>Construction Cost Savings * (One Time)</b>	\$	22,038,000	Notes (See Chart 12)
<b>Operation Cost Savings ** (Annual)</b>			
Staffing	\$	504,000.00	(See Chart 13)***
Utilities	\$	16,000.00	(See Chart 14)***
Maintenance and Operation Costs	\$	36,000	(See Chart 15)
Transportation	\$	-	
Food Services	\$	24,000	
<b>Total Annual Cost Savings**</b>	\$	580,000	
<b>Ten Year Operational Cost Savings **</b>	\$	5,800,000	
<b>Ten Year Total Savings</b>	\$	27,838,000	

\* Figures are based on FY 2024 dollars with no adjustment for inflation.

\*\* Figures are based on 2023 dollars with no adjustment for inflation.

\*\*\* Figures are rounded down to the nearest \$1,000.

# APPENDIX

- APPENDIX 01 – Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) Title 13A State Board of Education, Subtitle 02 *“Local School Administration”*, Chapter 09 *“Closing of Schools”*, Section .01 *“Adoption of Procedures to Govern School Closings”* (13A.02.09.01)
- APPENDIX 02 – *Public School Enrollment Projections 2023-2032* as prepared by Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) Enrollment Projections/Birth Rates
- APPENDIX 03 – Developments and Maps identified in the 2023 Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) for all Washington County High School Educational Service Areas
- APPENDIX 04 – Site Plan and Aerial Map of Hickory Elementary School
- APPENDIX 05 – Site Plan and Aerial Map of Fountain Rock Elementary School
- APPENDIX 06 – Washington County Board of Education (WCBOE) Board Policy EEA and Administrative Regulation EEA-R, *“Pupil Transportation”*
- APPENDIX 07 – Distance and Travel Time between Hickory/Fountain Rock elementary school locations and the proposed Downsville Pike Elementary School location
- APPENDIX 08 – Construction Budget for a Replacement 2-round Hickory Elementary School
- APPENDIX 09 – Construction Budget for a Replacement 2-round Fountain Rock Elementary School
- APPENDIX 10 – Construction Budget for a New 4-round Downsville Pike Elementary School
- APPENDIX 11 – Washington County Board of Education (WCBOE) Policy JCA and Administrative Regulation JCA-R, *“Establishment of School Attendance Areas”*
- APPENDIX 12 – Washington County Public Schools School Feeder Pattern
- APPENDIX 13 – Washington County Public Schools Elementary School Attendance Zone Map
- APPENDIX 14 – Community Meeting Concerns Identified



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Division of State Documents



## 13A.02.09.01

### .01 Adoption of Procedures to Govern School Closings.

A. Each local board of education shall establish procedures to be used in making decisions on school closings.

B. The procedures shall ensure, at a minimum, that consideration is given to the impact of the proposed closing on the following factors:

- (1) Student enrollment trends;
- (2) Age or condition of school buildings;
- (3) Transportation;
- (4) Educational programs;
- (5) Racial composition of student body;
- (6) Financial considerations;
- (7) Student relocation;
- (8) Impact on community in geographic attendance area for school proposed to be closed and school, or schools, to which students will be relocating.

C. The procedures shall provide, at a minimum, for the following requirements:

(1) A public hearing to permit concerned citizens an opportunity to submit their views orally or to submit written testimony or data on a proposed school closing. This includes the following:

- (a) The public hearing shall take place before any final decision by a local board of education to close a school;
- (b) Time limits on the submission of oral or written testimony and data shall be clearly defined in the notification of the public meeting.

(2) Adequate notice to parents and guardians of students in attendance at all schools that are being considered for closure by the local board of education. The following apply:

(a) In addition to any regular means of notification used by a local school system, written notification of all schools that are under consideration for closing shall be advertised in at least two newspapers having general circulation in the geographic attendance area for the school or schools proposed to be closed, and the school or schools to which students will be relocating;

(b) The newspaper notification shall include the procedures that will be followed by the local board of education in making its final decision;

(c) The newspaper notification shall appear at least 2 weeks in advance of any public hearings held by the local school system on a proposed school closing.

D. The final decision of a local board of education to close a school shall be announced at a public session and shall be in writing. The following apply:

(1) The final decision shall include the rationale for the school closing and address the impact of the proposed closing on the factors set forth in Regulation .01B;

(2) There shall be notification of the final decision of the local board of education to the community in the geographic attendance area of the school proposed to be closed and school or schools to which students will be relocating;

(3) The final decision shall include notification of the right to appeal to the State Board of Education as set forth in Regulation .03.



### Human Trafficking GET HELP

National Human Trafficking Hotline - 24/7 Confidential

 1-888-373-7888



**Washington County**

**Public School Historical Enrollments 2012 - 2022**

<b>Grades</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	1,777	1,679	1,566	1,577	1,614	1,583	1,595	1,615	1,428	1,508	1,488
<b>1</b>	1,696	1,802	1,700	1,575	1,603	1,640	1,591	1,609	1,537	1,505	1,600
<b>2</b>	1,645	1,699	1,785	1,693	1,612	1,604	1,663	1,578	1,572	1,581	1,547
<b>3</b>	1,669	1,651	1,698	1,788	1,719	1,643	1,609	1,672	1,493	1,597	1,607
<b>4</b>	1,709	1,653	1,653	1,732	1,824	1,726	1,657	1,631	1,618	1,546	1,647
<b>5</b>	1,689	1,730	1,642	1,666	1,748	1,819	1,738	1,688	1,562	1,644	1,570
<b>6</b>	1,619	1,712	1,712	1,661	1,674	1,723	1,826	1,740	1,631	1,574	1,648
<b>7</b>	1,728	1,649	1,716	1,726	1,663	1,674	1,700	1,830	1,692	1,624	1,607
<b>8</b>	1,664	1,734	1,631	1,700	1,734	1,665	1,688	1,727	1,834	1,715	1,648
<b>9</b>	1,728	1,727	1,794	1,714	1,759	1,807	1,730	1,754	1,817	2,037	1,892
<b>10</b>	1,765	1,673	1,658	1,758	1,683	1,749	1,788	1,726	1,683	1,690	1,883
<b>11</b>	1,709	1,718	1,598	1,605	1,723	1,649	1,697	1,713	1,655	1,611	1,621
<b>12</b>	1,516	1,558	1,620	1,529	1,545	1,637	1,528	1,582	1,620	1,499	1,486
<b>Elementary School (K-5)</b>	10,185	10,214	10,044	10,031	10,120	10,015	9,853	9,793	9,210	9,381	9,459
<b>Middle School (6-8)</b>	5,011	5,095	5,059	5,087	5,071	5,062	5,214	5,297	5,157	4,913	4,903
<b>High School (9-12)</b>	6,718	6,676	6,670	6,606	6,710	6,842	6,743	6,775	6,775	6,837	6,882
<b>Total School Enrollment</b>	<b>21,914</b>	<b>21,985</b>	<b>21,773</b>	<b>21,724</b>	<b>21,901</b>	<b>21,919</b>	<b>21,810</b>	<b>21,865</b>	<b>21,142</b>	<b>21,131</b>	<b>21,244</b>

Data prepared by Maryland Department of Planning

....CONTINUED...

Preliminary for LEA Review

**Washington County**

**Public School Enrollment Historical 2022 and Projected 2023 - 2032**

<b>Grades</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2031</b>	<b>2032</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	1,488	1,540	1,580	1,550	1,540	1,540	1,630	1,650	1,670	1,670	1,680
<b>1</b>	1,600	1,530	1,540	1,580	1,550	1,510	1,560	1,620	1,640	1,650	1,670
<b>2</b>	1,547	1,620	1,550	1,560	1,600	1,570	1,520	1,580	1,630	1,650	1,670
<b>3</b>	1,607	1,560	1,630	1,560	1,570	1,610	1,580	1,530	1,590	1,650	1,670
<b>4</b>	1,647	1,640	1,590	1,660	1,590	1,600	1,650	1,610	1,560	1,620	1,680
<b>5</b>	1,570	1,660	1,650	1,610	1,680	1,600	1,610	1,660	1,630	1,580	1,630
<b>6</b>	1,648	1,580	1,670	1,670	1,620	1,690	1,620	1,630	1,670	1,640	1,590
<b>7</b>	1,607	1,660	1,590	1,680	1,670	1,630	1,700	1,630	1,640	1,680	1,650
<b>8</b>	1,648	1,600	1,650	1,590	1,680	1,670	1,620	1,690	1,620	1,630	1,680
<b>9</b>	1,892	1,720	1,670	1,730	1,660	1,760	1,750	1,700	1,780	1,700	1,710
<b>10</b>	1,883	1,860	1,690	1,660	1,710	1,650	1,740	1,730	1,680	1,760	1,680
<b>11</b>	1,621	1,830	1,810	1,670	1,630	1,680	1,610	1,700	1,690	1,650	1,720
<b>12</b>	1,486	1,560	1,760	1,760	1,610	1,560	1,610	1,550	1,640	1,630	1,580
<b>Elementary (K-5)</b>	9,459	9,550	9,540	9,520	9,530	9,430	9,550	9,650	9,720	9,820	10,000
<b>Middle School (6-8)</b>	4,903	4,840	4,910	4,940	4,970	4,990	4,940	4,950	4,930	4,950	4,920
<b>High School (9-12)</b>	6,882	6,970	6,930	6,820	6,610	6,650	6,710	6,680	6,790	6,740	6,690
<b>Total School Enrollment</b>	<b>21,244</b>	<b>21,360</b>	<b>21,380</b>	<b>21,280</b>	<b>21,110</b>	<b>21,070</b>	<b>21,200</b>	<b>21,280</b>	<b>21,440</b>	<b>21,510</b>	<b>21,610</b>

All projected figures rounded to nearest ten  
 Totals are sum of rounded enrollments by grade  
 Projections prepared by Maryland Department of Planning

Preliminary for LEA Review

**Washington County**

**Grade Succession Ratios - Historical**

Base Year	Ratio Year	G1/K	G2/G1	G3/G2	G4/G3	G5/G4	G6/G5	G7/G6	G8/G7	G9/G8	G10/G9	G11/G10	G12/G11
2021/2022	2022/2023	1.0610	1.0279	1.0164	1.0313	1.0155	1.0024	1.0210	1.0148	1.1032	0.9244	0.9592	0.9224
2020/2021	2021/2022	1.0539	1.0286	1.0159	1.0355	1.0161	1.0077	0.9957	1.0136	1.1107	0.9301	0.9572	0.9057
2019/2020	2020/2021	0.9517	0.9770	0.9461	0.9677	0.9577	0.9662	0.9724	1.0022	1.0521	0.9595	0.9589	0.9457
2018/2019	2019/2020	1.0088	0.9918	1.0054	1.0137	1.0187	1.0012	1.0022	1.0159	1.0391	0.9977	0.9581	0.9322
2017/2018	2018/2019	1.0051	1.0140	1.0031	1.0085	1.0070	1.0038	0.9867	1.0084	1.0390	0.9895	0.9703	0.9266
2016/2017	2017/2018	1.0161	1.0006	1.0192	1.0041	0.9973	0.9857	1.0000	1.0012	1.0421	0.9943	0.9798	0.9501
2015/2016	2016/2017	1.0165	1.0235	1.0154	1.0201	1.0092	1.0048	1.0012	1.0046	1.0347	0.9819	0.9801	0.9626
2014/2015	2015/2016	1.0057	0.9959	1.0017	1.0200	1.0079	1.0116	1.0082	0.9907	1.0509	0.9799	0.9680	0.9568
2013/2014	2014/2015	1.0125	0.9906	0.9994	1.0012	0.9933	0.9896	1.0023	0.9891	1.0346	0.9600	0.9552	0.9430
2012/2013	2013/2014	1.0141	1.0018	1.0036	0.9904	1.0123	1.0136	1.0185	1.0035	1.0379	0.9682	0.9734	0.9116
2011/2012	2012/2013	1.0059	1.0030	1.0018	0.9873	0.9895	1.0006	1.0147	0.9887	1.0466	0.9871	0.9749	0.9499
2010/2011	2011/2012	1.0055	0.9982	1.0123	1.0125	0.9932	1.0059	1.0018	0.9910	1.0438	0.9898	0.9732	0.9285
2009/2010	2010/2011	1.0258	1.0071	1.0066	1.0150	1.0114	1.0402	1.0060	1.0100	1.0479	0.9779	0.9816	0.9335
2008/2009	2009/2010	1.0254	1.0054	1.0120	0.9929	1.0125	1.0166	1.0113	1.0205	1.0668	0.9941	0.9664	0.9488
2007/2008	2008/2009	1.0374	0.9987	1.0090	1.0050	1.0124	1.0164	1.0024	1.0083	1.0144	0.9798	0.9518	0.9579
2006/2007	2007/2008	1.0206	1.0078	1.0083	0.9981	1.0043	1.0293	1.0058	1.0121	1.0692	0.9463	0.9487	0.9573
2005/2006	2006/2007	1.0235	1.0241	1.0196	1.0346	1.0256	1.0299	1.0477	1.0189	1.0509	0.9848	0.9653	0.9294
2004/2005	2005/2006	1.0420	1.0246	1.0193	1.0123	1.0162	1.0417	1.0173	1.0024	1.0397	0.9648	0.9553	0.9511
2003/2004	2004/2005	1.0756	1.0092	1.0159	1.0352	1.0267	1.0465	1.0321	1.0182	1.0601	0.9886	0.9328	0.9693
Most Recent	22-23	1.0610	1.0279	1.0164	1.0313	1.0155	1.0024	1.0210	1.0148	1.1032	0.9244	0.9592	0.9224
Most Recent-1	21-22	1.0539	1.0286	1.0159	1.0355	1.0161	1.0077	0.9957	1.0136	1.1107	0.9301	0.9572	0.9057
Most Recent-2	20-21	0.9517	0.9770	0.9461	0.9677	0.9577	0.9662	0.9724	1.0022	1.0521	0.9595	0.9589	0.9457
Most Recent-3	19-20	1.0088	0.9918	1.0054	1.0137	1.0187	1.0012	1.0022	1.0159	1.0391	0.9977	0.9581	0.9322
Most Recent-4	18-19	1.0051	1.0140	1.0031	1.0085	1.0070	1.0038	0.9867	1.0084	1.0390	0.9895	0.9703	0.9266
Most Recent-5	17-18	1.0161	1.0006	1.0192	1.0041	0.9973	0.9857	1.0000	1.0012	1.0421	0.9943	0.9798	0.9501
Most Recent-6	16-17	1.0165	1.0235	1.0154	1.0201	1.0092	1.0048	1.0012	1.0046	1.0347	0.9819	0.9801	0.9626
Most Recent-7	15-16	1.0057	0.9959	1.0017	1.0200	1.0079	1.0116	1.0082	0.9907	1.0509	0.9799	0.9680	0.9568
Most Recent-8	14-15	1.0125	0.9906	0.9994	1.0012	0.9933	0.9896	1.0023	0.9891	1.0346	0.9600	0.9552	0.9430
Most Recent-9	13-14	1.0141	1.0018	1.0036	0.9904	1.0123	1.0136	1.0185	1.0035	1.0379	0.9682	0.9734	0.9116
Most Recent-10	12-13	1.0059	1.0030	1.0018	0.9873	0.9895	1.0006	1.0147	0.9887	1.0466	0.9871	0.9749	0.9499
Most Recent-11	11-12	1.0055	0.9982	1.0123	1.0125	0.9932	1.0059	1.0018	0.9910	1.0438	0.9898	0.9732	0.9285
Most Recent-12	10-11	1.0258	1.0071	1.0066	1.0150	1.0114	1.0402	1.0060	1.0100	1.0479	0.9779	0.9816	0.9335
Average Last 2	21-23	1.0575	1.0283	1.0162	1.0334	1.0158	1.0051	1.0083	1.0142	1.1069	0.9273	0.9582	0.9141
Average Last 2-1	20-22	1.0028	1.0028	0.9810	1.0016	0.9869	0.9870	0.9841	1.0079	1.0814	0.9448	0.9580	0.9257
Average Last 2-2	19-21	0.9802	0.9844	0.9758	0.9907	0.9882	0.9837	0.9873	1.0090	1.0456	0.9786	0.9585	0.9390
Average Last 2-3	18-20	1.0069	1.0029	1.0043	1.0111	1.0128	1.0025	0.9944	1.0121	1.0391	0.9936	0.9642	0.9294

Data Prepared by Maryland Department of Planning

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Preliminary for LEA Review

**Washington County Grade Succession Ratios - Historical**

**Washington County**

Base Year	Ratio Year	G1/K	G2/G1	G3/G2	G4/G3	G5/G4	G6/G5	G7/G6	G8/G7	G9/G8	G10/G9	G11/G10	G12/G11
Average Last 2-4	17-19	1.0106	1.0073	1.0112	1.0063	1.0021	0.9948	0.9933	1.0048	1.0406	0.9919	0.9750	0.9384
Average Last 2-5	16-18	1.0163	1.0121	1.0173	1.0121	1.0032	0.9952	1.0006	1.0029	1.0384	0.9881	0.9799	0.9564
Average Last 2-6	15-17	1.0111	1.0097	1.0085	1.0201	1.0086	1.0082	1.0047	0.9977	1.0428	0.9809	0.9741	0.9597
Average Last 2-7	14-16	1.0091	0.9932	1.0005	1.0106	1.0006	1.0006	1.0053	0.9899	1.0427	0.9700	0.9616	0.9499
Average Last 2-8	13-15	1.0133	0.9962	1.0015	0.9958	1.0028	1.0016	1.0104	0.9963	1.0362	0.9641	0.9643	0.9273
Average Last 2-9	12-14	1.0100	1.0024	1.0027	0.9889	1.0009	1.0071	1.0166	0.9961	1.0422	0.9777	0.9741	0.9308
Average Last 3	20-23	1.0222	1.0112	0.9928	1.0115	0.9964	0.9921	0.9964	1.0102	1.0887	0.9380	0.9584	0.9246
Average Last 3-1	19-22	1.0048	0.9992	0.9891	1.0056	0.9975	0.9917	0.9901	1.0106	1.0673	0.9624	0.9580	0.9279
Average Last 3-2	18-21	0.9885	0.9943	0.9849	0.9966	0.9945	0.9904	0.9871	1.0088	1.0434	0.9822	0.9624	0.9349
Average Last 3-3	17-20	1.0100	1.0022	1.0093	1.0088	1.0076	0.9969	0.9963	1.0085	1.0401	0.9938	0.9694	0.9363
Average Last 3-4	16-19	1.0125	1.0127	1.0126	1.0109	1.0045	0.9981	0.9960	1.0047	1.0386	0.9886	0.9767	0.9464
Average Last 3-5	15-18	1.0128	1.0067	1.0121	1.0147	1.0048	1.0007	1.0031	0.9988	1.0426	0.9854	0.9760	0.9565
Average Last 3-6	14-17	1.0116	1.0033	1.0055	1.0138	1.0035	1.0020	1.0039	0.9948	1.0401	0.9740	0.9678	0.9541
Average Last 3-7	13-16	1.0108	0.9961	1.0016	1.0039	1.0045	1.0049	1.0097	0.9944	1.0411	0.9694	0.9655	0.9371
Average Last 3-8	12-15	1.0108	0.9985	1.0016	0.9930	0.9984	1.0013	1.0118	0.9938	1.0397	0.9718	0.9678	0.9348
Average Last 3-9	11-14	1.0085	1.0010	1.0059	0.9967	0.9983	1.0067	1.0117	0.9944	1.0428	0.9817	0.9738	0.9300
Average Last 4	19-23	1.0189	1.0063	0.9960	1.0120	1.0020	0.9944	0.9978	1.0116	1.0763	0.9529	0.9583	0.9265
Average Last 4-1	18-22	1.0049	1.0029	0.9926	1.0063	0.9999	0.9947	0.9892	1.0100	1.0602	0.9692	0.9611	0.9276
Average Last 4-2	17-21	0.9954	0.9959	0.9935	0.9985	0.9952	0.9892	0.9903	1.0069	1.0431	0.9853	0.9667	0.9387
Average Last 4-3	16-20	1.0116	1.0075	1.0108	1.0116	1.0080	0.9989	0.9975	1.0075	1.0387	0.9909	0.9721	0.9429
Average Last 4-4	15-19	1.0108	1.0085	1.0098	1.0132	1.0053	1.0015	0.9990	1.0012	1.0417	0.9864	0.9745	0.9490
Average Last 4-5	14-18	1.0127	1.0026	1.0089	1.0114	1.0019	0.9979	1.0029	0.9964	1.0406	0.9791	0.9708	0.9531
Average Last 4-6	13-17	1.0122	1.0029	1.0050	1.0079	1.0057	1.0049	1.0076	0.9970	1.0395	0.9725	0.9692	0.9435
Average Last 4-7	12-16	1.0096	0.9978	1.0016	0.9997	1.0007	1.0039	1.0109	0.9930	1.0425	0.9738	0.9679	0.9403
Average Last 4-8	11-15	1.0095	0.9984	1.0043	0.9978	0.9971	1.0024	1.0093	0.9931	1.0407	0.9763	0.9692	0.9333
Average Last 4-9	10-14	1.0128	1.0025	1.0061	1.0013	1.0016	1.0151	1.0103	0.9983	1.0441	0.9808	0.9758	0.9309
Average Last 5	18-23	1.0161	1.0079	0.9974	1.0113	1.0030	0.9963	0.9956	1.0110	1.0688	0.9602	0.9607	0.9265
Average Last 5-1	17-22	1.0071	1.0024	0.9980	1.0059	0.9993	0.9929	0.9914	1.0082	1.0566	0.9742	0.9648	0.9321
Average Last 5-3	15-20	0.9996	1.0014	0.9979	1.0028	0.9980	0.9923	0.9925	1.0065	1.0414	0.9846	0.9694	0.9435
Average Last 5-4	14-19	1.0104	1.0052	1.0090	1.0133	1.0080	1.0014	0.9996	1.0042	1.0412	0.9887	0.9712	0.9457
Average Last 5-4	14-19	1.0112	1.0049	1.0078	1.0108	1.0029	0.9991	0.9997	0.9988	1.0403	0.9811	0.9707	0.9478
Average Last 5-5	13-18	1.0130	1.0025	1.0079	1.0072	1.0040	1.0011	1.0060	0.9978	1.0400	0.9769	0.9713	0.9448
Average Last 5-6	12-17	1.0109	1.0030	1.0044	1.0038	1.0024	1.0040	1.0090	0.9953	1.0409	0.9754	0.9703	0.9448
Average Last 5-7	11-16	1.0088	0.9979	1.0038	1.0023	0.9992	1.0043	1.0091	0.9926	1.0428	0.9770	0.9689	0.9380
Average Last 5-8	10-15	1.0128	1.0001	1.0047	1.0013	0.9999	1.0100	1.0087	0.9965	1.0422	0.9766	0.9716	0.9333

Data Prepared by Maryland Department of Planning

Preliminary for LEA Review

**Washington County Assumptions: Kindergarten-Derived; Grade Succession - 52 Types**

Grades	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Most Recent (22-23)	21,244	21,375	21,491	21,427	21,421	21,574	21,765	21,899	22,134	22,262	22,406
Most Recent-1 (21-22)	21,244	21,340	21,445	21,371	21,349	21,476	21,645	21,795	22,036	22,169	22,314
Most Recent-2 (20-21)	21,244	20,850	20,419	19,802	19,202	18,835	18,538	18,263	18,139	18,014	17,988
Most Recent-3 (19-20)	21,244	21,293	21,304	21,119	20,886	20,899	20,957	20,986	21,108	21,130	21,192
Most Recent-4 (18-19)	21,244	21,262	21,250	21,019	20,756	20,743	20,783	20,823	20,954	21,004	21,102
Most Recent-5 (17-18)	21,244	21,295	21,279	21,023	20,719	20,665	20,680	20,670	20,786	20,834	20,933
Most Recent-6 (16-17)	21,244	21,393	21,462	21,289	21,090	21,153	21,277	21,374	21,567	21,671	21,803
Most Recent-7 (15-16)	21,244	21,316	21,315	21,099	20,858	20,852	20,930	20,965	21,085	21,119	21,180
Most Recent-8 (14-15)	21,244	21,092	20,896	20,516	20,148	20,034	20,004	19,948	20,006	20,008	20,064
Most Recent-9 (13-14)	21,244	21,222	21,196	20,956	20,719	20,727	20,788	20,801	20,891	20,893	20,971
Most Recent-10 (12-13)	21,244	21,244	21,178	20,885	20,556	20,470	20,467	20,416	20,471	20,470	20,544
Most Recent-11 (11-12)	21,244	21,252	21,226	20,978	20,693	20,654	20,696	20,710	20,817	20,863	20,946
Most Recent-12 (10-11)	21,244	21,391	21,502	21,375	21,232	21,329	21,471	21,577	21,724	21,773	21,860
Average Last 2 (21-23)	21,244	21,358	21,468	21,399	21,385	21,526	21,706	21,848	22,086	22,216	22,361
Average Last 2-1 (20-22)	21,244	21,095	20,926	20,569	20,244	20,107	20,024	19,943	19,983	19,974	20,023
Average Last 2-2 (19-21)	21,244	21,071	20,858	20,450	20,024	19,837	19,707	19,572	19,561	19,501	19,514
Average Last 2-3 (18-20)	21,244	21,278	21,277	21,069	20,821	20,821	20,870	20,905	21,031	21,068	21,147
Average Last 2-4 (17-19)	21,244	21,278	21,265	21,021	20,738	20,705	20,732	20,748	20,871	20,920	21,019
Average Last 2-5 (16-18)	21,244	21,344	21,371	21,155	20,904	20,908	20,977	21,020	21,174	21,249	21,365
Average Last 2-6 (15-17)	21,244	21,355	21,389	21,194	20,974	21,002	21,103	21,169	21,326	21,395	21,491
Average Last 2-7 (14-16)	21,244	21,204	21,105	20,806	20,500	20,439	20,461	20,449	20,536	20,553	20,612
Average Last 2-8 (13-15)	21,244	21,157	21,046	20,735	20,432	20,378	20,392	20,370	20,443	20,445	20,512
Average Last 2-9 (12-14)	21,244	21,233	21,187	20,920	20,636	20,597	20,627	20,608	20,680	20,681	20,757
Average Last 3 (20-23)	21,244	21,188	21,113	20,851	20,629	20,584	20,587	20,573	20,674	20,707	20,785
Average Last 3-1 (19-22)	21,244	21,161	21,052	20,753	20,458	20,370	20,333	20,287	20,353	20,354	20,407
Average Last 3-2 (18-21)	21,244	21,135	20,988	20,638	20,265	20,134	20,059	19,981	20,015	19,990	20,029

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**Washington County Assumptions: Kindergarten-Derived; Grade Succession - 52 Types**

Preliminary for LEA Review

Grades	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Average Last 3-3 (17-20)	21,244	21,283	21,278	21,054	20,787	20,769	20,807	20,827	20,950	20,990	21,077
Average Last 3-4 (16-19)	21,244	21,317	21,331	21,110	20,855	20,853	20,912	20,955	21,101	21,168	21,277
Average Last 3-5 (15-18)	21,244	21,335	21,352	21,137	20,888	20,889	20,962	21,002	21,145	21,207	21,304
Average Last 3-6 (14-17)	21,244	21,267	21,224	20,966	20,695	20,675	20,730	20,753	20,875	20,920	21,002
Average Last 3-7 (13-16)	21,244	21,210	21,135	20,856	20,573	20,535	20,570	20,566	20,655	20,667	20,732
Average Last 3-8 (12-15)	21,244	21,186	21,090	20,785	20,473	20,408	20,417	20,385	20,453	20,454	20,523
Average Last 3-9 (11-14)	21,244	21,239	21,200	20,939	20,656	20,617	20,651	20,643	20,727	20,742	20,821
Average Last 4 (19-23)	21,244	21,215	21,162	20,919	20,696	20,665	20,682	20,679	20,784	20,815	20,889
Average Last 4-1 (18-22)	21,244	21,186	21,102	20,819	20,533	20,463	20,445	20,421	20,503	20,515	20,579
Average Last 4-2 (17-21)	21,244	21,175	21,061	20,734	20,378	20,266	20,213	20,152	20,206	20,199	20,252
Average Last 4-3 (16-20)	21,244	21,311	21,324	21,112	20,862	20,864	20,923	20,963	21,103	21,159	21,257
Average Last 4-4 (15-19)	21,244	21,317	21,327	21,108	20,856	20,853	20,917	20,958	21,098	21,157	21,254
Average Last 4-5 (14-18)	21,244	21,274	21,237	20,980	20,701	20,672	20,718	20,733	20,854	20,899	20,985
Average Last 4-6 (13-17)	21,244	21,256	21,217	20,963	20,701	20,688	20,745	20,766	20,880	20,914	20,995
Average Last 4-7 (12-16)	21,244	21,219	21,146	20,863	20,568	20,518	20,544	20,529	20,609	20,618	20,685
Average Last 4-8 (11-15)	21,244	21,203	21,124	20,833	20,528	20,470	20,487	20,466	20,544	20,556	20,628
Average Last 4-9 (10-14)	21,244	21,277	21,275	21,047	20,798	20,793	20,853	20,873	20,972	20,995	21,076
Average Last 5 (18-23)	21,244	21,224	21,180	20,940	20,709	20,682	20,704	20,709	20,819	20,854	20,932
Average Last 5-1 (17-22)	21,244	21,208	21,137	20,860	20,570	20,504	20,493	20,471	20,560	20,580	20,650
Average Last 5-2 (16-21)	21,244	21,219	21,140	20,843	20,518	20,440	20,421	20,391	20,471	20,485	20,554
Average Last 5-3 (15-20)	21,244	21,312	21,322	21,110	20,862	20,862	20,925	20,964	21,100	21,152	21,242
Average Last 5-4 (14-19)	21,244	21,272	21,240	20,988	20,713	20,687	20,731	20,752	20,874	20,921	21,009
Average Last 5-5 (13-18)	21,244	21,264	21,229	20,975	20,705	20,683	20,732	20,747	20,862	20,899	20,983
Average Last 5-6 (12-17)	21,244	21,254	21,209	20,947	20,672	20,644	20,689	20,696	20,798	20,825	20,905
Average Last 5-7 (11-16)	21,244	21,225	21,162	20,886	20,593	20,546	20,575	20,565	20,651	20,667	20,738
Average Last 5-8 (10-15)	21,244	21,240	21,199	20,940	20,667	20,639	20,680	20,684	20,774	20,793	20,868

Washington County

Base Year	Births		Kindergarten		1st Grade	
	Ratio Year	Enrollment	Ratio Year	Enrollment	Ratio Year	Enrollment
1998	1.452	1,435	2003	1,435	2004	1,543
1999	1.496	1,475	2004	1,475	2005	1,537
2000	1.483	1,620	2005	1,620	2006	1,658
2001	1.504	1,556	2006	1,556	2007	1,588
2002	1.649	1,606	2007	1,606	2008	1,666
2003	1.656	1,656	2008	1,656	2009	1,698
2004	1.714	1,627	2009	1,627	2010	1,669
2005	1.737	1,631	2010	1,631	2011	1,640
2006	1.875	1,686	2011	1,686	2012	1,696
2007	1.985	1,777	2012	1,777	2013	1,802
2008	1.846	1,679	2013	1,679	2014	1,700
2009	1.753	1,566	2014	1,566	2015	1,575
2010	1.763	1,577	2015	1,577	2016	1,603
2011	1.737	1,614	2016	1,614	2017	1,640
2012	1.736	1,583	2017	1,583	2018	1,591
2013	1.710	1,595	2018	1,595	2019	1,609
2014	1.779	1,615	2019	1,615	2020	1,537
2015	1.716	1,428	2020	1,428	2021	1,505
2016	1.722	1,508	2021	1,508	2022	1,600
2017	1.647	1,488	2022	1,488	2023	1,530
2018	1.657	1,540	2023	1,540	2024	1,540
2019	1.704	1,580	2024	1,580	2025	1,580
2020	1.668	1,550	2025	1,550	2026	1,550
2021	1.620	1,510	2026	1,510	2027	1,510
2022	1.660	1,540	2027	1,540	2028	1,560
2023	1.720	1,620	2028	1,620	2029	1,620
2024	1.740	1,650	2029	1,650	2030	1,640
2025	1.760	1,670	2030	1,670	2031	1,650
2026	1.780	1,670	2031	1,670	2032	1,670
2027	1.790	1,680	2032	1,680		
Projected Values are underlined						
Average Ratios	Kindergarten/Birth	1st Grade/Birth	Kindergarten/Birth	1st Grade/Birth	Kindergarten/Birth	1st Grade/Birth
Most Recent-2 (22-23)(Births 17-18)	0.9035	0.9292	0.9175	0.9339	0.9175	0.9339
Most Recent-1 (21-22)(Births 16-17)	0.8757	0.8770	0.9246	0.9233	0.9246	0.9233
Most Recent-2 (20-21)(Births 15-16)	0.8322	0.8640	0.9119	0.9173	0.9119	0.9173
Most Recent-3 (19-20)(Births 14-15)	0.9078	0.9409	0.9057	0.9095	0.9057	0.9095
Most Recent-4 (18-19)(Births 13-14)	0.9327	0.9165	0.8991	0.9091	0.8991	0.9091
Most Recent-5 (17-18)(Births 12-13)	0.9119	0.9442	0.8994	0.9111	0.8994	0.9111
Most Recent-6 (16-17)(Births 11-12)	0.9292	0.9092	0.9013	0.9188	0.9013	0.9188
Most Recent-7 (15-16)(Births 10-11)	0.8945	0.8985	0.8798	0.9028	0.8798	0.9028
Most Recent-8 (14-15)(Births 09-10)	0.8933	0.9209	0.8871	0.8996	0.8871	0.8996
Most Recent-9 (13-14)(Births 08-09)	0.9095	0.9078	0.8961	0.9164	0.8961	0.9164
Most Recent-10 (12-13)(Births 07-08)	0.8952	0.9045	0.9204	0.9277	0.9204	0.9277
Most Recent-11 (11-12)(Births 06-07)	0.8992	0.9442	0.9171	0.9171	0.9171	0.9171
Most Recent-12 (10-11)(Births 05-06)	0.9390	0.9737	0.9182	0.9182	0.9182	0.9182
Average Last 2 (21-23)(Births 16-18)	0.8896	0.9031	0.9066	0.9091	0.9066	0.9091
Average Last 2-1 (20-22)(Births 15-17)	0.8539	0.8705	0.8981	0.9079	0.8981	0.9079
Average Last 2-2 (19-21)(Births 14-16)	0.8700	0.9025	0.8993	0.9194	0.8993	0.9194
Average Last 2-3 (18-20)(Births 13-15)	0.9203	0.9287	0.9107	0.9326	0.9107	0.9326
Average Last 2-4 (17-19)(Births 12-14)	0.9223	0.9303	0.8904	0.9055	0.8904	0.9055
Average Last 2-5 (16-18)(Births 11-13)	0.9205	0.9267	0.8921	0.9085	0.8921	0.9085
Average Last 2-6 (15-17)(Births 10-12)	0.9118	0.9039	0.9028	0.9150	0.9028	0.9150
Average Last 2-7 (14-16)(Births 09-11)	0.8939	0.9097	0.9152	0.9219	0.9152	0.9219
Average Last 2-8 (13-15)(Births 08-10)	0.9014	0.9144	0.9123	0.9178	0.9123	0.9178
Average Last 2-9 (12-14)(Births 07-09)	0.9024	0.9062	0.9077	0.9161	0.9077	0.9161
Average Last 3 (20-23)(Births 15-18)	0.8705	0.8901	0.9044	0.9082	0.9044	0.9082
Average Last 3-1 (19-22)(Births 14-17)	0.8719	0.8719	0.8984	0.9152	0.8984	0.9152
Average Last 3-2 (18-21)(Births 13-16)	0.8909	0.9071	0.9072	0.9302	0.9072	0.9302

Data Prepared by the Maryland Department of Planning

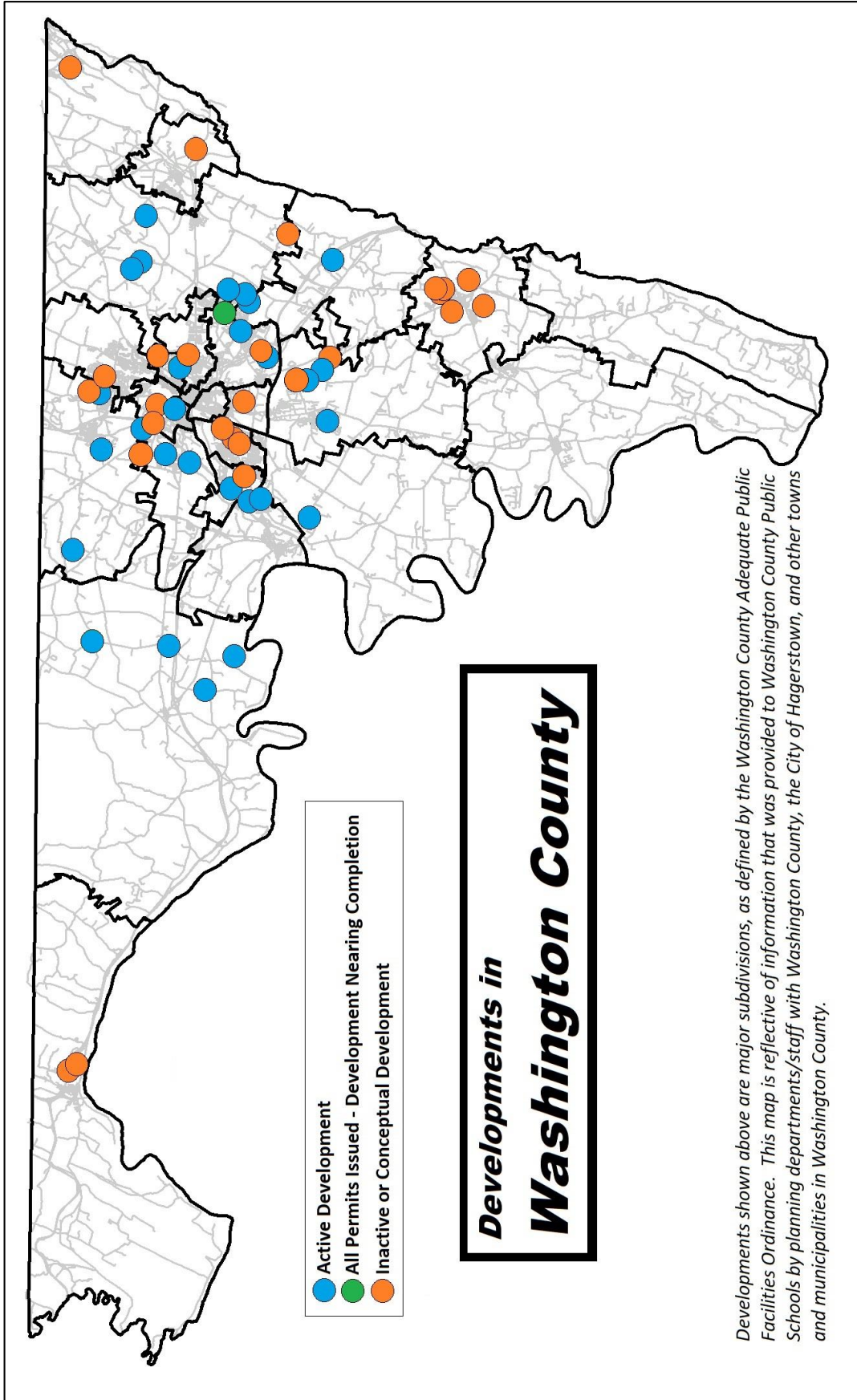
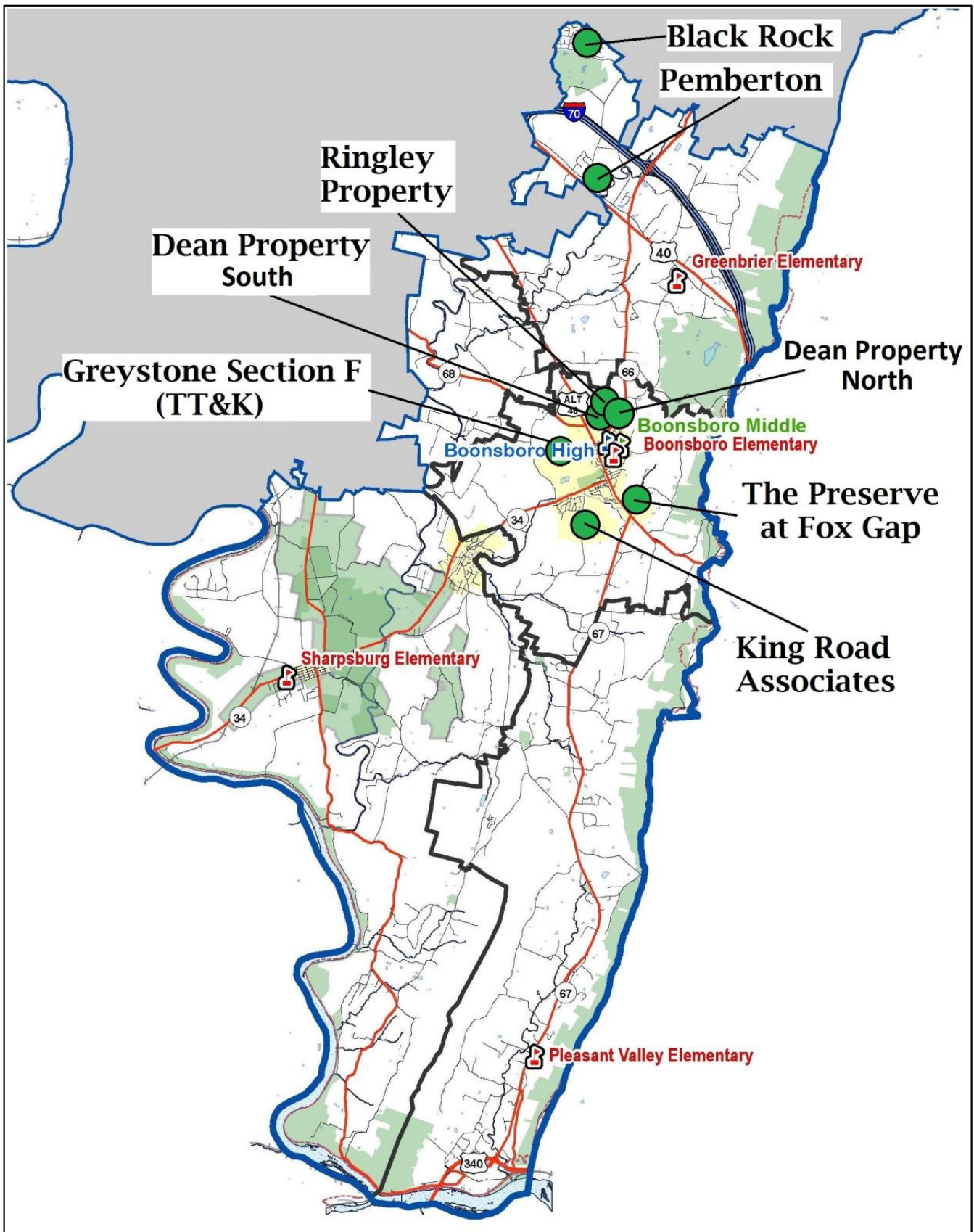


Figure 2.6 Major Urban Developments





**Figure 2.9 Developments in the Boonsboro High School Educational Service Area**

....CONTINUED...

<b>Boonsboro High School Educational Service Area Subdivisions</b>						
<b>Name</b>	<b>Total Possible Units</b>	<b>Units In Concept Phase</b>	<b>Final Plat Approval</b>		<b>2023 Feeder Schools</b>	
			<b>With Permit</b>	<b>Without Permit</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>
Dean Property North	53	53	0	0	Boonsboro	Boonsboro
Dean Property South	36	36	0	0	Boonsboro	Boonsboro
Graystone Section F (TT&K)	360	360	0	0	Boonsboro	Boonsboro
King Road Associates	1056	1056	0	0	Boonsboro	Boonsboro
The Preserve at Fox Gap	125	125	0	0	Boonsboro	Boonsboro
Ringley Property	12	12	0	0	Boonsboro	Boonsboro
Black Rock Estates	160	0	144	16	Greenbrier	Boonsboro
Pemberton	37	0	24	13	Greenbrier	Boonsboro

**Figure 2.10 Subdivisions in the Boonsboro High School Educational Service Area**

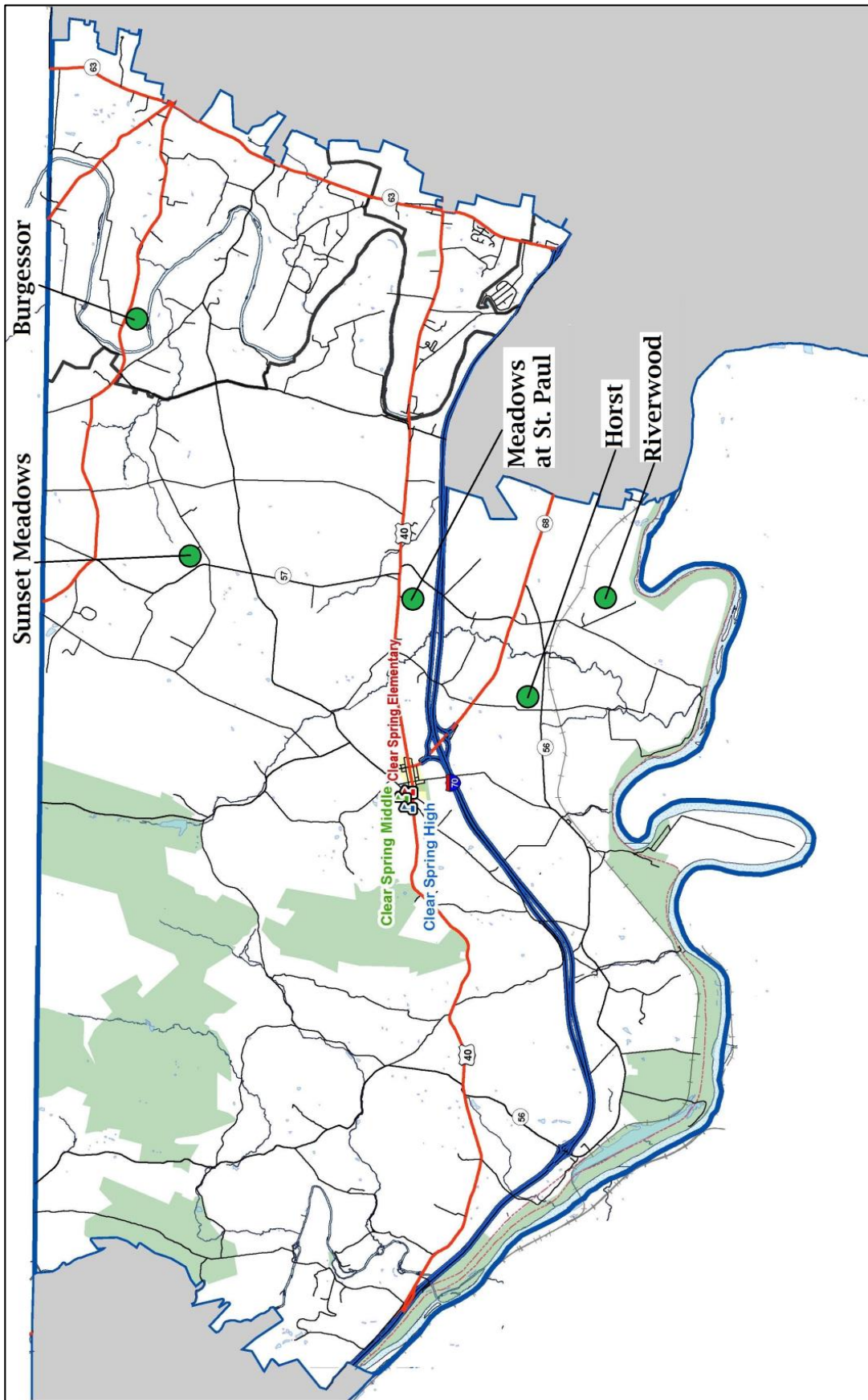
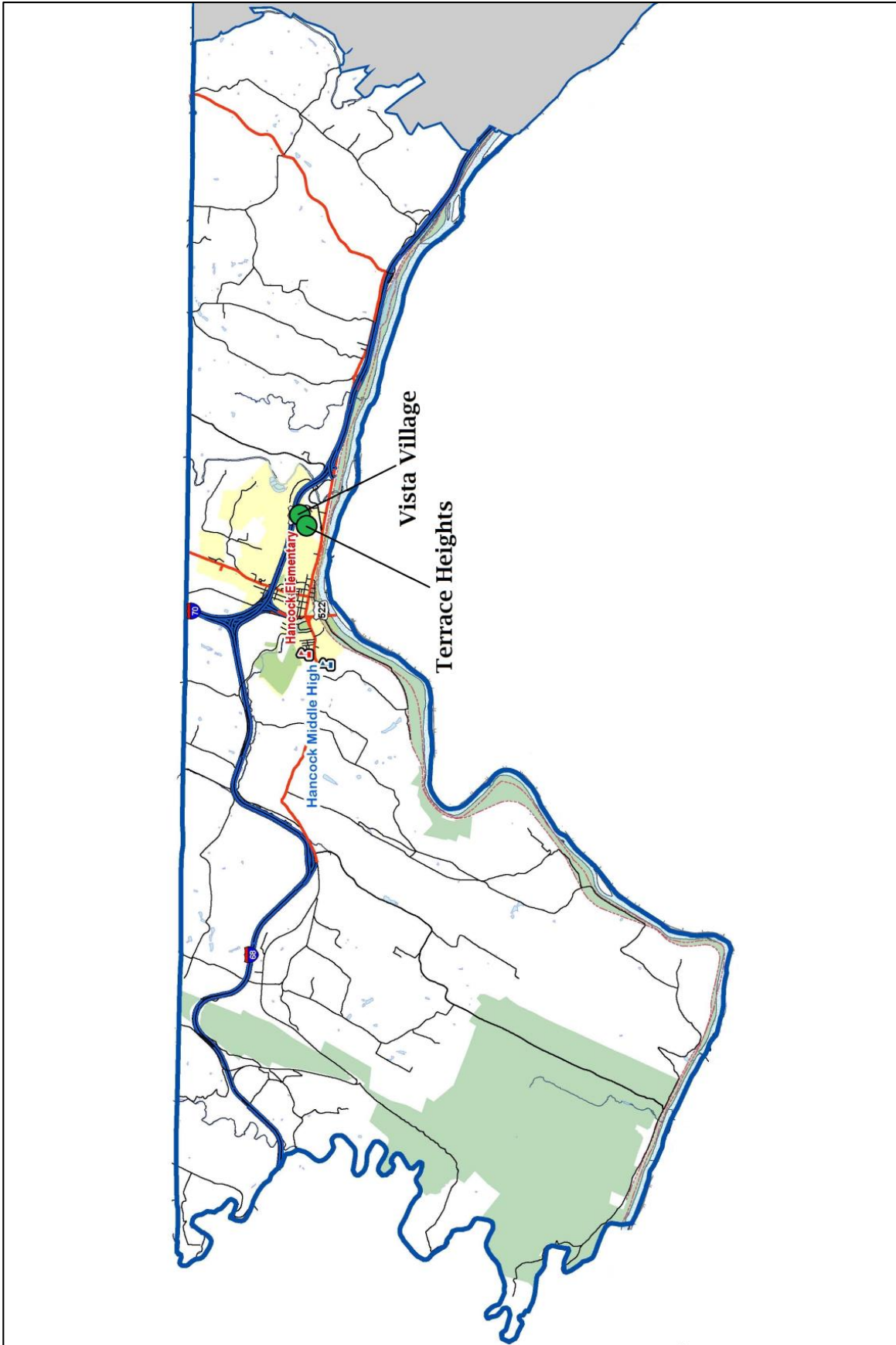


Figure 2.12 Developments in the Clear Spring High School Educational Service Area

....CONTINUED...

<b>Clear Spring High School Educational Service Area Subdivisions</b>						
<b>Name</b>	<b>Total Possible Units</b>	<b>Units In Concept Phase</b>	<b>Final Plat Approval</b>		<b>2023 Feeder Schools</b>	
			<b>With Permit</b>	<b>Without Permit</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>
Horst	10	0	5	5	Clear Spring	Clear Spring
Meadows At St. Paul	29	0	26	3	Clear Spring	Clear Spring
Riverwood	21	0	18	3	Clear Spring	Clear Spring
Sunset Meadows	16	11	5	0	Clear Spring	Clear Spring
Burgessor	18	0	17	1	Maugansville	Clear Spring

**Figure 2.13 Subdivisions in the Clear Spring High School Educational Service Area**



**Figure 2.15 Developments in the Hancock High School Educational Service Area**

....CONTINUED...

<b>Hancock High School Educational Service Area Subdivisions</b>						
<b>Name</b>	<b>Total Possible Units</b>	<b>Units In Concept Phase</b>	<b>Final Plat Approval</b>		<b>2023 Feeder Schools</b>	
			<b>With Permit</b>	<b>Without Permit</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>
Terrace Heights	28	0	0	28	Hancock	Hancock
Vista Village	70	0	0	70	Hancock	Hancock

**Figure 2.16 Subdivisions in the Hancock High School Educational Service Area**

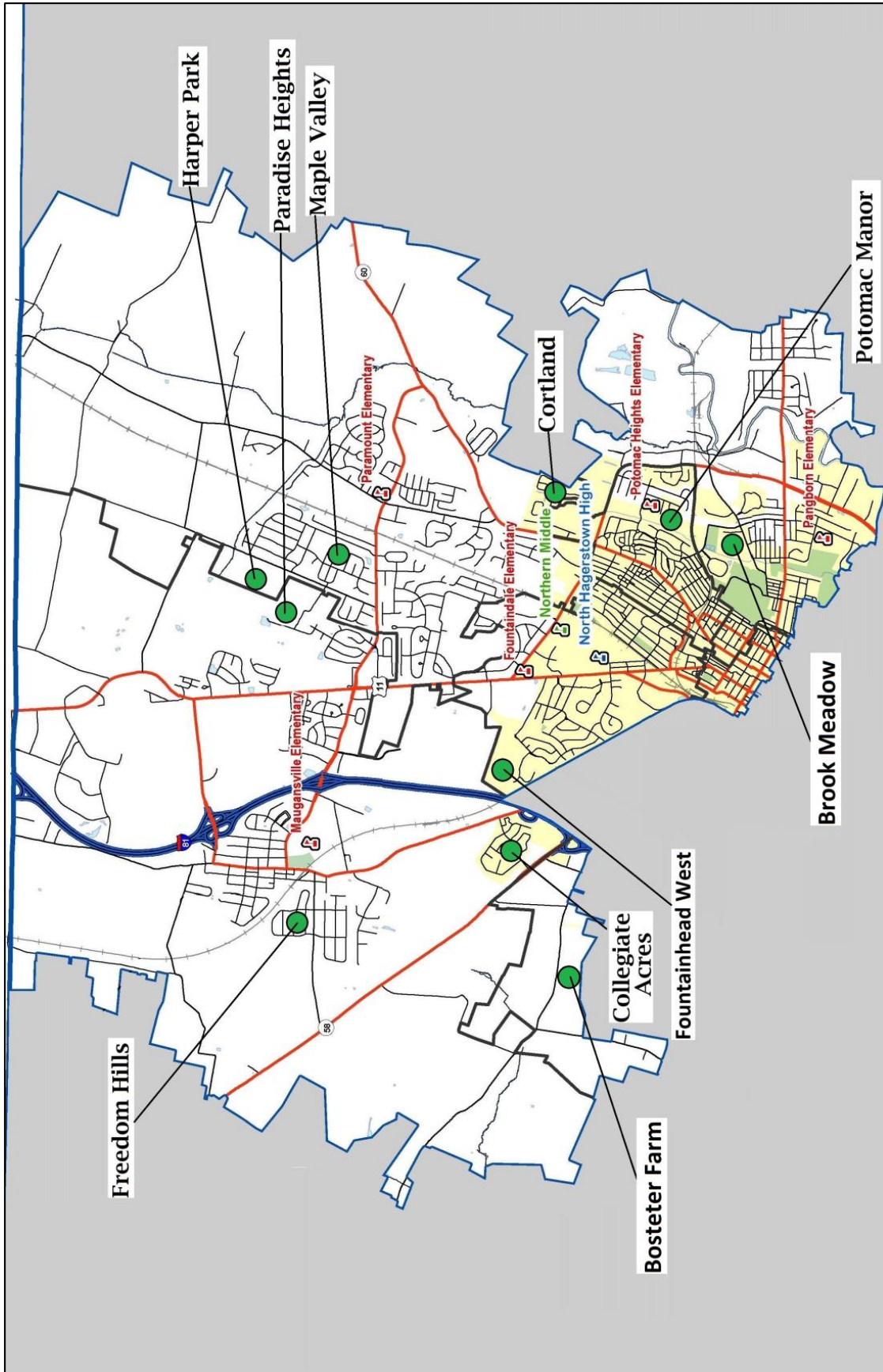


Figure 2.18 Developments in the North Hagerstown High School Educational Service Area

....CONTINUED...

<b>North Hagerstown High School Educational Service Area Subdivisions</b>						
<b>Name</b>	<b>Total Possible Units</b>	<b>Units In Concept Phase</b>	<b>Final Plat Approval</b>		<b>2023 Feeder Schools</b>	
			<b>With Permit</b>	<b>Without Permit</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>
Fountainhead West	231	231	0	0	Fountaindale	Western Heights
Collegiate Acres	570	0	446	124	Maugansville	Western Heights
Freedom Hills	167	0	154	13	Maugansville	Western Heights
Paradise Heights	128	51	52	25	Maugansville	Northern
Cortland	28	0	0	28	Pangborn	Northern
Brook Meadow	119	119	0	0	Pangborn	Northern
Cortland	30	0	4	26	Paramount	Northern
Harper Park	73	59	0	14	Paramount	Northern
Maple Valley	160	0	158	2	Paramount	Northern
Cortland	22	0	0	22	Potomac Heights	Northern
Potomac Manor	47	0	46	1	Potomac Heights	Northern
Bosteter Farm	190	190	0	0	Jonathan Hager	Western Heights

**Figure 2.19 Subdivisions in the North Hagerstown High School Educational Service Area**



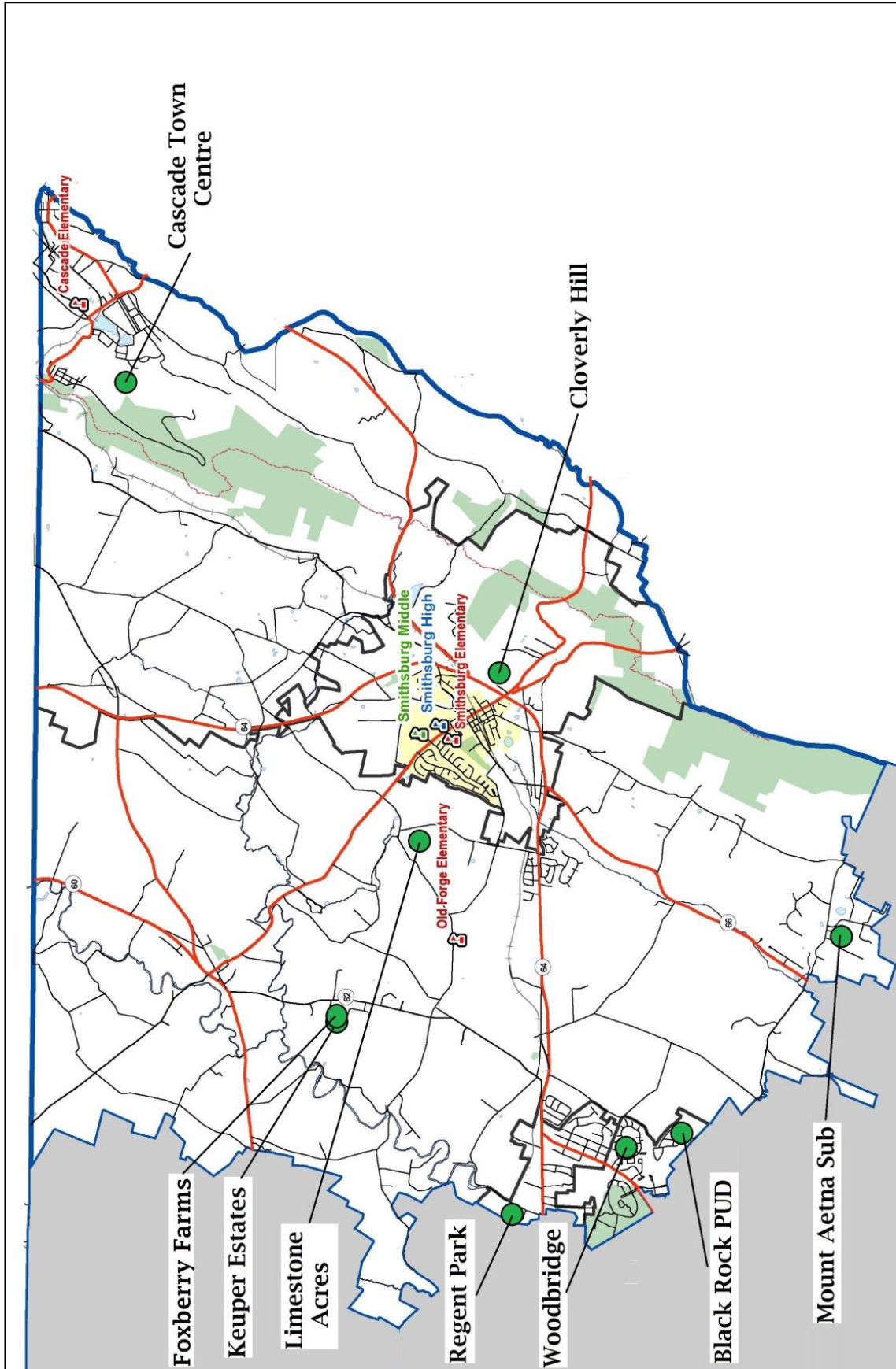


Figure 2.21 Developments in the Smithsburg High School Educational Service Area

....CONTINUED...

<b>Smithsburg High School Educational Service Area Subdivisions</b>						
<b>Name</b>	<b>Total Possible Units</b>	<b>Units In Concept Phase</b>	<b>Final Plat Approval</b>		<b>2023 Feeder Schools</b>	
			<b>With Permit</b>	<b>Without Permit</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>
Cascade Town Centre	36	36	0	0	Cascade	Smithsburg
Black Rock PUD	595	587	0	8	EE / RAMP	Smithsburg
Woodbridge	272	0	270	2	EE / RAMP	Smithsburg
Foxberry Farms	7	0	3	4	Old Forge	Smithsburg
Keuper Estates	7	0	6	1	Old Forge	Smithsburg
Limestone Acres	15	0	9	6	Old Forge	Smithsburg
Mount Aetna Sub	31	0	29	2	Old Forge	Smithsburg
Regent Park	25	0	0	25	Pangborn	Smithsburg
Cloverly Hill	206	206	0	0	Smithsburg	Smithsburg

**Figure 2.22 Subdivisions in the Smithsburg High School Educational Service Area**

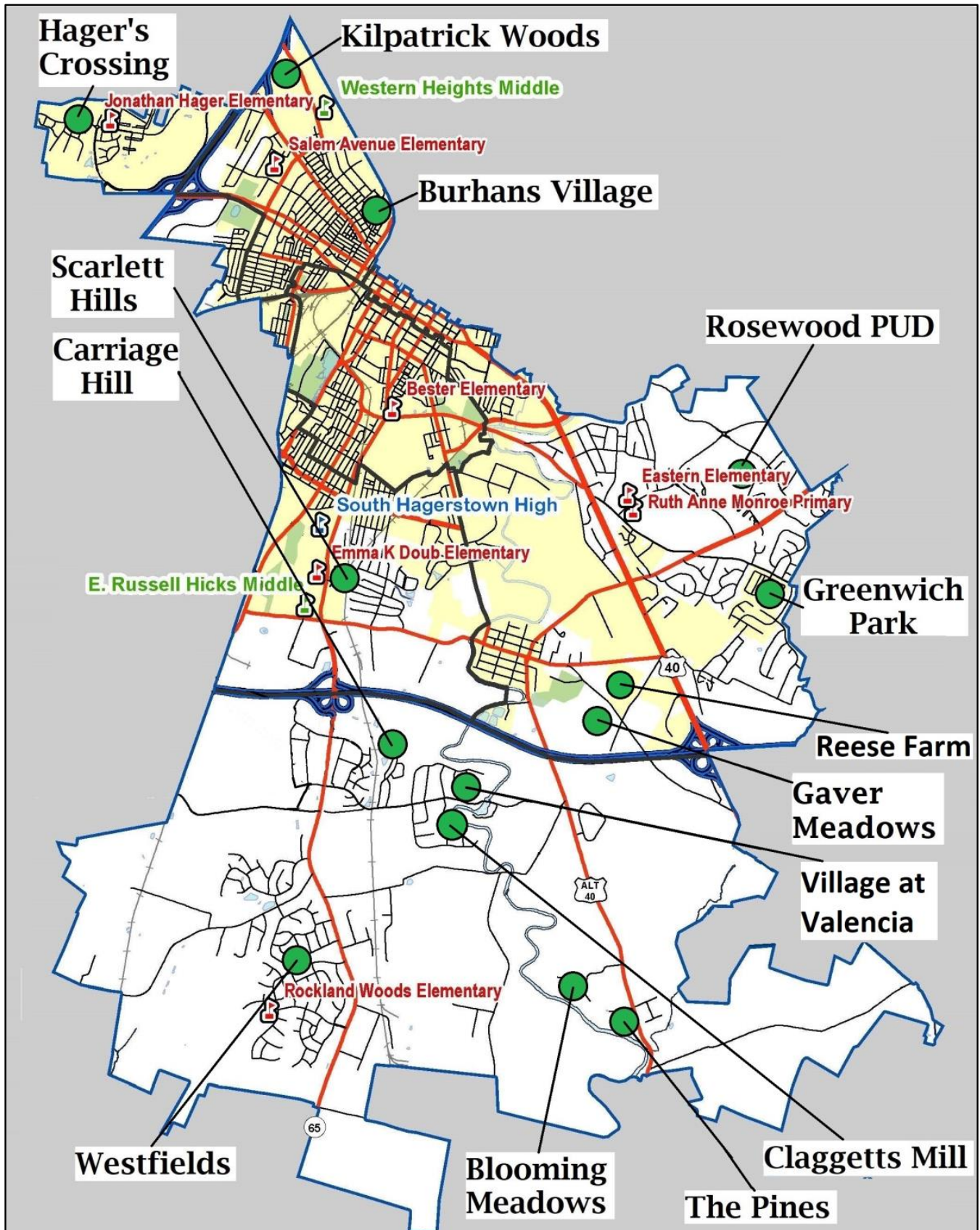
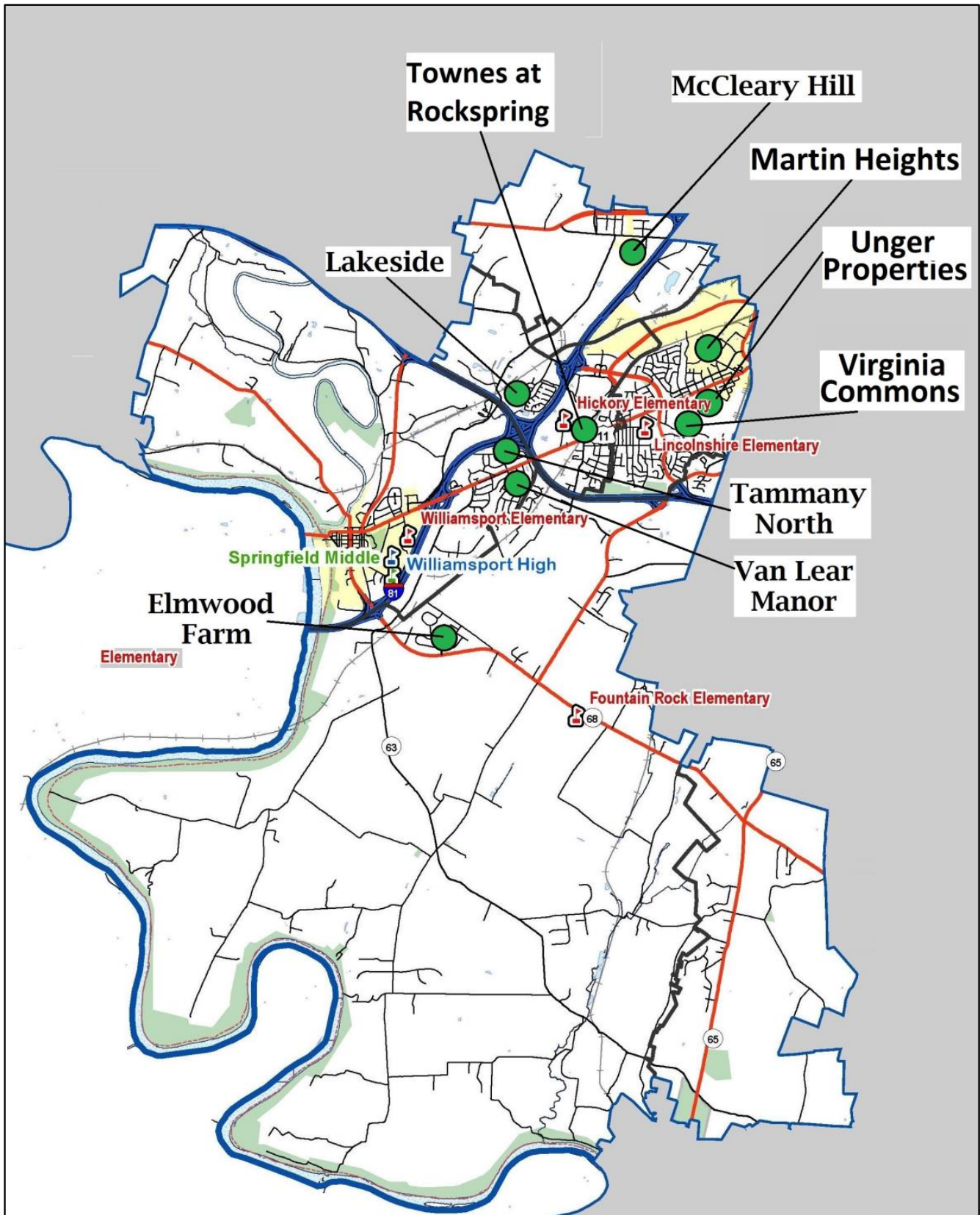


Figure 2.24 Developments in the South Hagerstown High School Educational Service Area

...CONTINUED...

<b>South Hagerstown High School Educational Service Area Subdivisions</b>						
<b>Name</b>	<b>Total Possible Units</b>	<b>Units In Concept Phase</b>	<b>Final Plat Approval</b>		<b>2023 Feeder Schools</b>	
			<b>With Permit</b>	<b>Without Permit</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>
Gaver Meadows	150	47	98	5	EE / RAMP	E.R. Hicks
Greenwich Park	193	0	175	18	EE / RAMP	E.R. Hicks
Rosewood PUD	632	0	632	0	EE / RAMP	E.R. Hicks
Reese Farm	197	197	0	0	EE / RAMP	E.R. Hicks
Scarlett Hills	36	0	0	36	Emma K. Doub	E.R. Hicks
Hager's Crossing	641	0	636	5	Jonathan Hager	Western Heights
Blooming Meadows	12	0	7	5	Rockland Woods	E.R. Hicks
Carriage Hills	36	36	0	0	Rockland Woods	E.R. Hicks
Claggetts Mill	148	0	128	20	Rockland Woods	E.R. Hicks
The Pines	11	0	9	2	Rockland Woods	E.R. Hicks
Village at Valencia	150	150	0	0	Rockland Woods	E.R. Hicks
Westfields	775	0	726	49	Rockland Woods	E.R. Hicks
Burhans Village	54	0	14	40	Salem Avenue	Western Heights
Kilpatrick Woods	241	134	0	107	Salem Avenue	Western Heights

**Figure 2.25 Subdivisions in the South Hagerstown High School Educational Service Area**

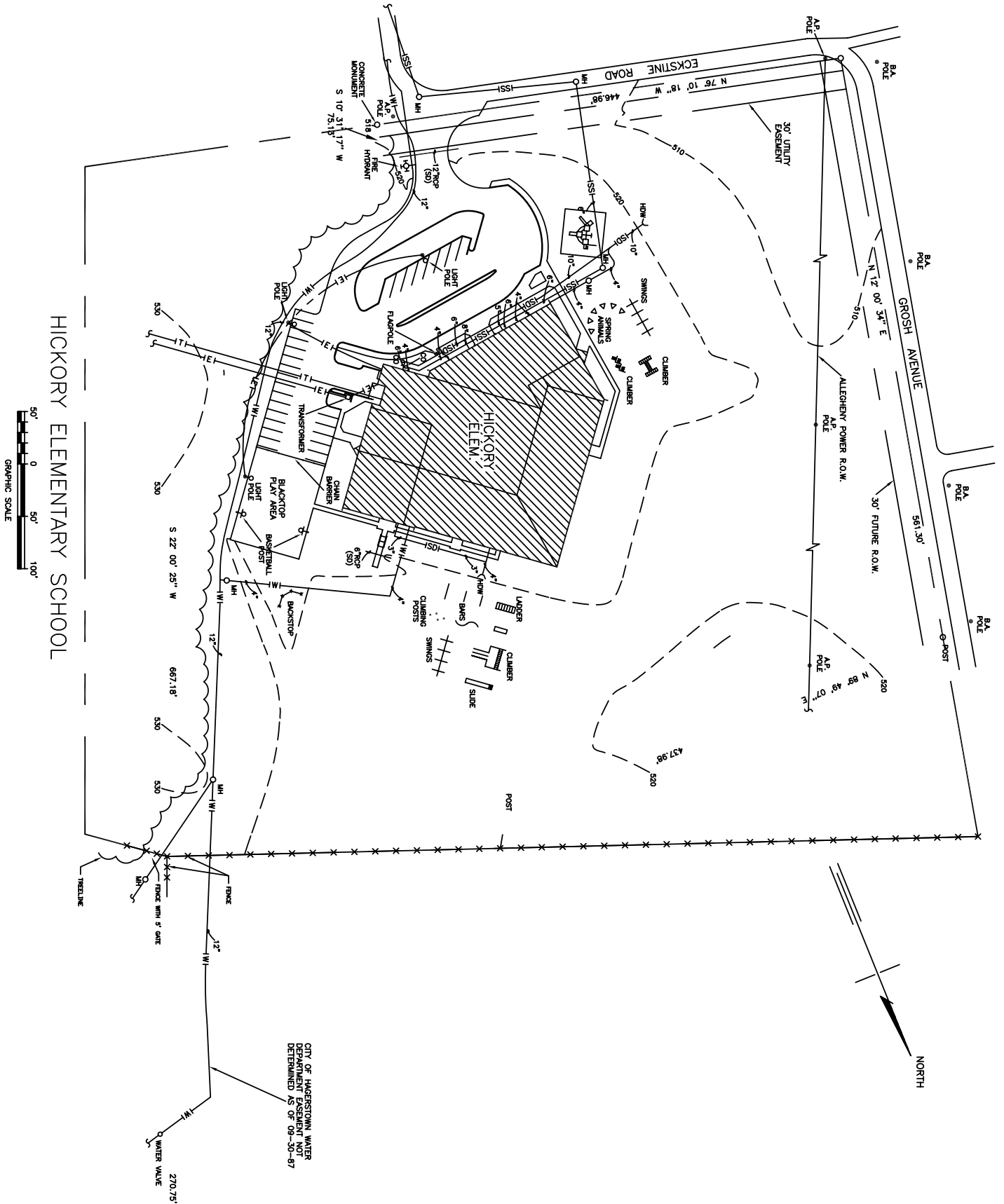


**Figure 2.27 Developments in the Williamsport High School Educational Service Area**

....CONTINUED...

<b>Williamsport High School Educational Service Area Subdivisions</b>						
<b>Name</b>	<b>Total Possible Units</b>	<b>Units In Concept Phase</b>	<b>Final Plat Approval</b>		<b>2023 Feeder Schools</b>	
			<b>With Permit</b>	<b>Without Permit</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>
Elmwood Farm	174	33	127	14	Fountain Rock	Springfield
Lakeside	189	0	180	9	Hickory	Springfield
Townes at Rockspring	123	123	0	0	Hickory	Springfield
Martin Heights	48	48	0	0	Lincolnshire	Springfield
Unger Properties (Virginia Commons (Phase I))	36	36	0	0	Lincolnshire	Springfield
Virginia Commons (Phase II)	368	368	0	0	Lincolnshire	Springfield
McCleary Hill	165	0	153	12	Jonathan Hager	Springfield
Tammany North	74	0	74	0	Williamsport	Springfield
Van Lear Manor	17	0	8	9	Williamsport	Springfield

**Figure 2.28 Subdivisions in the Williamsport High School Educational Service Area**



....CONTINUED...

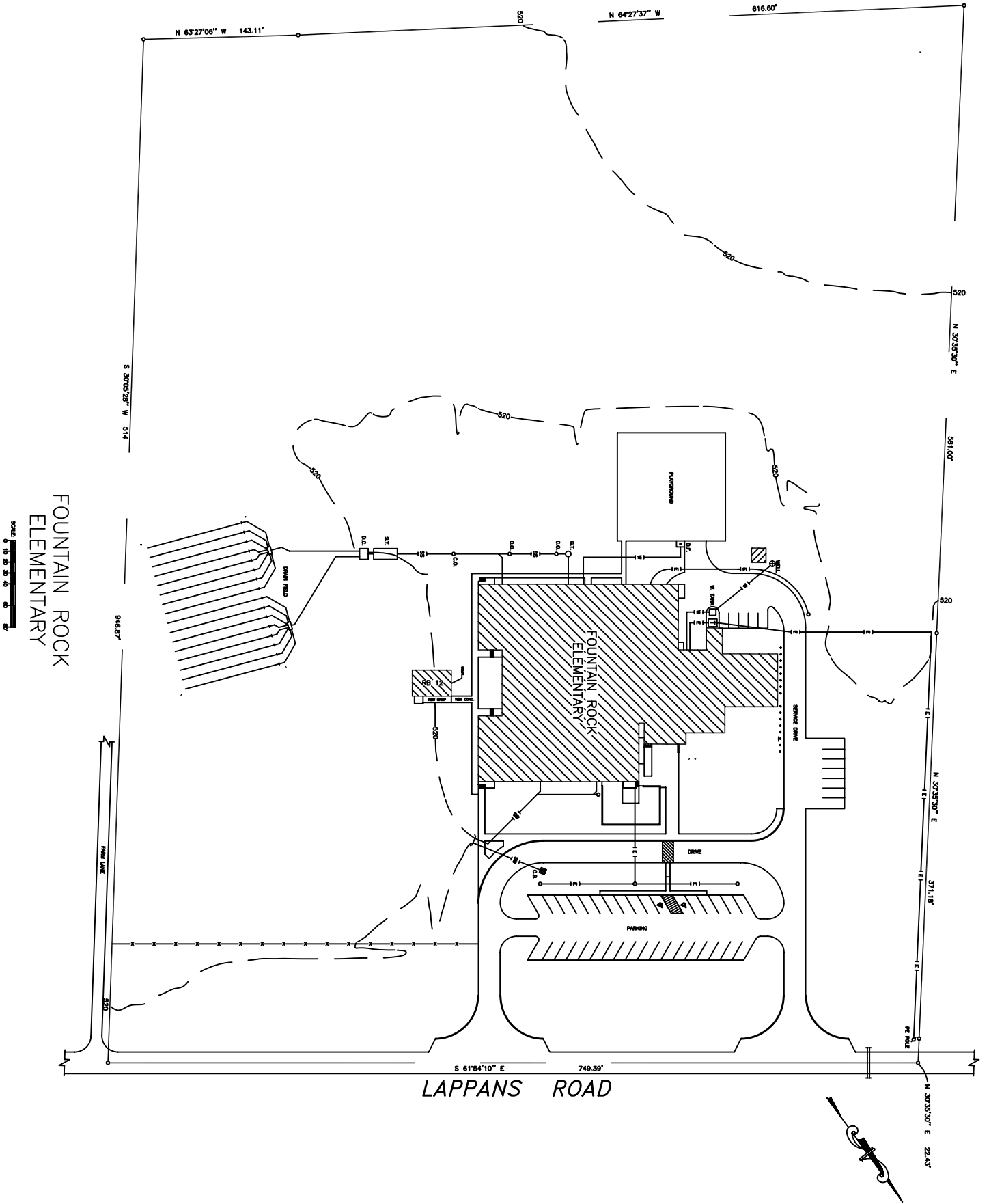


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File: EEA

## PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

### I. ELIGIBILITY

A. *Regular.* Pupil transportation shall be provided for eligible Washington County Public School pupils from established school vehicle stops to the appropriate public school and return from school to the established school vehicle stops. Each school facility shall have an exclusively designated attendance area.

- (1) Middle and high school pupils who live 1 1/2 miles or more from school, and elementary, including kindergarten pupils, who live 1 mile or more from school, are eligible for transportation. Pre-kindergarten pupils living more than 1/2 mile from school may be transported at mid-day. Each school shall have a non-transported area, as described in the administrative regulation, which shall be determined by measuring the appropriate walking distance from the pupil's private lane, driveway, or walking entrance where it meets the public roadway, to the nearest authorized entrance of the school building as designated by the Supervisor of Transportation or his/her designee. The distance shall be measured by the most direct, traveled route and may be along public roads or walkways.
- (2) Request for transportation due to unsafe walking conditions will be reviewed by the Assistant Supervisor responsible for the area of concern.
- (3) When an emergency occurs causing exceptional conditions as determined by the Supervisor of Transportation or designee Transportation Department may authorize temporary emergency transportation service.
- (4) Appeal Process.

If a request is denied, an appeal can be made to the following positions or entity in the following order:

- A. Supervisor of Transportation;
- B. The Review Committee comprised of the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and two (2) Assistant Superintendents.  
Any two members of the Review Committee have the authority to issue a ruling.
- C. Board of Education

### B. *Students with Disabilities (SWD)*

- (1) For purposes of pupil transportation, a student with disabilities is one who needs special transportation arrangements to a facility which is the approved appropriate educational placement. Pupil transportation shall be provided for eligible students with disabilities from established school vehicle stops to appropriate school and return from the school to the established school vehicle stops. The need for transportation shall be determined by the Individual Education Program in charge of special education placement and the Supervisor of Transportation or designee. Appropriate facilities are:
  - (a) Maryland public schools.
  - (b) State Department of Education approved nonpublic schools.
  - (c) State institutions.
  - (d) State schools.

- (2) Students with disabilities who are residents of Washington County, who are placed at residential facilities for the school year, shall be eligible for two round trips each school year as determined by the Individual Education Program and the Supervisor of Transportation or designee.
- (3) Students with disabilities who are residents of Washington County, who attend a weekly residential program at Maryland State Department of Education approved public or nonpublic school may have transportation available to and from specified locations on weekends, as determined by the Transportation Department.
- (4) A bus assistant may be employed to serve on each vehicle that transports students with disabilities as needed.

C. *Non-approved Transportation.* The following transportation is to be disallowed:

- (1) Privately operated summer programs and day camps.
- (2) Nonpublic school pupils (except students with disabilities as defined in Section I.B).
- (3) Transportation of adults except persons between 18 and 20 years old who are enrolled in approved regular or special education daytime school programs and parents who are participating in special education parent/infant programs. (Does not exclude adults who participate as chaperones on field trips on a space available basis.)
- (4) Transportation of pupils to after school job sites, clubs or private lessons.
- (5) Transportation of public school pupils whose request is based on the inability of the parent, guardian or caregiver.

D. *Transportation of Students with Special Permission Approval*

- (1) A student who has been granted special permission to attend a school outside of his/her assigned attendance area may, subject to the submission of required information and the approval of the Department of Transportation, access an existing bus stop inside the attendance area of the approved school zone, to get to and from school.
- (2) A parent or guardian who is requesting transportation services must submit a Transportation Location Change Request Form to the Department of Transportation.
- (3) The Transportation Location Change Request Form is subject to the approval of the Transportation Department. Available seating on the bus is one of the considerations in the approval process.
- (4) Students, for whom transportation is approved, will be dropped-off at a pre-designated location which, in most cases, will not be in proximity to the student's home. It is the obligation of the parent or guardian to be present at the designated drop-off location at the designated drop-off time at all times. It is also the obligation of the parent or guardian to designate, in writing, an alternate adult and a dwelling in the immediate area of the designated bus drop-off location in the event the parent or guardian is unable to meet the student at the designated stop at the designated time. Failure of the parent or guardian to adhere to these obligations will result in the immediate termination of special permission bus services.

[SEE ALSO POLICY JC AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION JC-R – "PERMISSION TO ATTEND SCHOOL OUT OF HOME SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREA"]

## II. OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

The transportation program shall be operated and administered in accordance with the State Regulations (COMAR 13A.06.07), which govern student transportation services.

## III. AUDIO AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERA

The Washington County Board of Education believes that the safety and security of students are top priorities. The Board authorizes the installation and use of audio and video surveillance cameras on school buses operating in Washington County.

Staff and students will be informed of the presence of audio and video surveillance cameras on the school bus in the annual WCPS Handbook and Guide.  
See also Policy EFGH.

## IV. SCHOOL VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

School vehicles used to transport any Washington County public school pupils shall meet all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, all Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration specifications, and minimum specifications as set forth in COMAR Regulations 13A.06.07.

## V. EXCEPTIONS TO POLICY

The Superintendent of Schools or designee may make exceptions to this policy and accompanying regulations under emergency conditions when:

- A. Compliance with this policy may endanger the life and physical well being of pupils, or when
- B. Compliance with this policy may make the operation of pupil transportation impossible or unsafe due to an Act of God, strike, rebellion, or other unforeseen disturbance.

These exceptions shall remain in effect only until the next regular meeting of the Washington County Board of Education.

- C. If possible, the Superintendent will notify the Board of Education of action taken pursuant to this section. The notification should include information on the expected duration of the action and whether action by the Board of Education is required.

## VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Specific limits, allowances, guidelines, and procedures not stated in this policy but related to the administration and funding of pupil transportation shall be found in the regulations which accompany this policy.

### Related Policies and Administrative Regulations

See also Policy EEBA and Administrative Regulation EEBA-R – "Use of School Owned Vehicles (Other than School Buses)" and Policy JC – and Administrative Regulation JC-R - "Permission to Attend School Out of Home School Attendance Area"

Policy adopted: July 21, 1981 Revised: May 20, 2008 Revised: November 18, 2008. Amended: June 2, 2009.

Board of Education of Washington County

**PUPIL TRANSPORTATION****I. ELIGIBILITY**

The Washington County Board of Education (WCPS) is committed to providing transportation for pupils who are eligible.

- A. *Transported Areas.* Policy EEA contains criteria that identify pupils who are eligible for WCPS transportation services.
- B. *Non-transported Areas.* Non-transported areas apply to public middle and high school pupils residing within one and one-half (1 ½) miles, elementary, including kindergarten pupils, residing within one (1) mile from the designated pupil entrance to the school to where the property line of the pupil's resident meets the roadway as designated by the Supervisor of Transportation or his/her designee.
- C. *Exceptional Conditions for the Provision of Service within a Non-transported Area.*
  1. When pupils are required to walk across a roadway involving an unusual hazard as determined by the Supervisor of Transportation or his/her designee.
  2. When pupils are required to walk more than ¼ mile along a road having a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour or more.
  3. When pupils are required to walk across an at-grade high speed railroad crossing, bridge or overpass, or through a tunnel having inadequate walkways as determined by the Supervisor of Transportation or his/her designee.
  4. When pupils residing within a non-transported area do not have a suitable walkway between their homes and their assigned school. A suitable walkway is defined as either a sidewalk, pathway, road shoulder or surface over which pupils may walk without walking in the travel lanes of the roadway. This provision does not apply when the residential community is adjacent to the school grounds or has little or no transient traffic, or when the volume of traffic as determined by the Supervisor of Transportation or his/her designee is non-hazardous during the time pupils walk to and from school.
- D. *Provision of Service to and From School.*
  1. Pupils must ride the bus to which they have been assigned.
  2. To promote safety, consistency and accountability, WCPS will allow, within the pupil's assigned school zone, for two consistent AM stop location and two consistent PM stop location per pupil for the school year. Exceptions will be made only in case of an emergency, as determined by the Supervisor of Transportation or designee or relocation of the custodial parent from the existing residence to a new location.
  3. Parents must complete the Transportation Location Change Request Form (See Exhibit EEA-E) for transportation to and/or from any location other than home. Any such requests are subject to the approval of the Supervisor of Transportation or designee.
  4. At the conclusion of school year 2008-2009, school system officials designated by the Superintendent are to review this section of the transportation regulations and are to report their findings to the Board of Education at a public business meeting.

**II. ROUTING AND SCHEDULING**

- A. Pupils are expected to be at their designated bus stop 5 minutes prior to the scheduled time.



- B. The walking distance to a bus stop may be up to but not to exceed the distance that pupils are required to walk to and from school; however, the Transportation Department will endeavor to route buses so as to minimize the walking distance to a bus stop. This is exclusive of private driveways and roadways.
- C. School buses shall be routed so that all pupils are seated and loads do not exceed the rated capacity. If extenuating circumstances create an overload, i.e. unanticipated ridership at the beginning of the school year or an emergency, a corrective plan will be immediately identified and remedied as soon as possible but no later than five (5) student days after notification of the overload condition.
- D. The Transportation Department does not use taxi cabs to transport pupils to and/or from school.

### III. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Riding the school bus is a privilege. Pupil behavior directly affects the safety of all passengers. School buses are an extension of the school campus and all school rules and regulations apply accordingly. Parents or guardians must ensure that their child(ren) understand the rules and regulations for riding the bus.

- A. Parents should notify their child's school immediately of a change of address or a requested change in transportation.
- B. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to provide supervision for their child(ren) while walking to, from, or waiting at the designated bus stop, or while walking to and from school if they reside in the designated non-transported area. Parents are responsible for identifying the appropriate walk route from home to school or the bus stop.
- C. Parents are expected to have children at the assigned bus five (5) minutes before the scheduled arrival time of the bus in the morning. Traffic volume or accidents, beyond the control of the Transportation Department, may affect the bus schedule. Please allow a window of time for the bus to arrive.
- D. Parents or guardians are liable for damage caused by their child(ren) to the property of others, including the school bus.
- E. Parents are expected to check local radio stations and television broadcasts, as well as the WCPS web page for announcements of a delayed opening, closing or early dismissal of schools.

### IV. SCHOOL BUS RIDERS RULES AND REGULATIONS

The school bus is an extension of the school day. Conduct should be the same as in the classroom. The driver is authorized to assign seats to all students.

#### A. *While on the bus*

1. Keep all body parts inside the bus at all times after entering and until leaving the bus.
2. Assist in keeping the bus safe and sanitary at all times. **NO EATING OR DRINKING ON THE BUS.**
3. Remember that loud talking and laughing or unnecessary confusion diverts the driver's attention and may result in a serious accident.
4. Treat bus equipment as you would valuable furniture in your own home. Damage to seats, etc., must be paid for by the offender.

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5. Never tamper with the bus or any of its equipment.
6. Remember to take all books, lunches or other belongings with you upon exiting the bus.
7. The aisle must remain clear at all times.
8. Do not throw anything out of the bus window.
9. Remain seated at all times until your destination is reached.
10. Horseplay is not permitted around or on the school bus.
11. Bus riders are expected to be courteous and respectful to fellow pupils, the bus driver, and the driver's assistant.
12. Maintain absolute quiet when approaching and crossing a railroad track.
13. In case of a road emergency, follow directions from the driver.
14. The school bus is a drug, alcohol and tobacco free zone.
15. Use of cell/camera phones by pupils is prohibited.
16. Objects too large to fit in seat, animals of any kind, skateboards, scooters and liquids are not allowed on the bus.

*B. After leaving the bus*

1. The driver will not discharge riders at places other than the regular bus stop at the home or at school unless by proper authorization from the school principal.
2. When it is necessary to cross the road, always walk at least ten feet in front of the bus, looking to make sure that no traffic is approaching from either direction.
3. Always go straight home when you get off the school bus.

*C. Extracurricular Trips*

1. The above rules and regulations apply to any trip under school sponsorship.
2. Pupils shall respect the directions of a competent chaperone appointed by the school.
3. Cell phone use is only permitted for emergency reasons.

**V. STUDENT BUS DISCIPLINE**

Discipline problems on the school bus distract the driver's attention from driving, which potentially could lead to an accident. To minimize that type of situation from occurring, the following guidelines have been established. Also, to help create consistency among schools when dealing with discipline on the school bus, the following step-by-step plan was created. Severe offenses, such as weapons, drugs, fighting, etc., will escalate the steps of consequences and possibly the loss of bus riding privileges at all school levels. If a student loses his/her bus riding privileges, it is for all Washington County School Buses. The following has been created:

A. *ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:*

1. **FIRST REFERRAL:**  
Student conference with school administrator, phone call and/or form letter sent home to parent.
2. **SECOND REFERRAL:**  
Student conference with school administrator, phone call and/or form letter sent home to parent. Student will lose bus riding privileges for one school day.
3. **THIRD REFERRAL:**  
Student conference with school administrator, phone call and/or form letter sent home to parent. Student will lose bus riding privileges for up to three school days.
4. **FOURTH REFERRAL:**  
Student conference with school administrator, phone call and/or form letter sent home to parent. Student will lose bus riding privileges for up to five school days.
5. **FIFTH REFERRAL:**  
Student, parent conference, with school administrator and transportation Assistant Supervisor. Form letter sent home to parent. Student will lose bus riding privileges for up to ten school days.
6. **SIXTH REFERRAL:**  
Student will lose ALL BUS RIDING PRIVILEGES for the remainder of the school year.

Drivers may be present at student conferences during any level of the referral process.

The school administrator may skip steps in the referral process should particular situations arise which, in the opinion of the administrator, are extremely unsafe.

B. *MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS:*

1. **FIRST REFERRAL:**  
Student conference with school administrator, phone call and/or form letter sent home to parent.
2. **SECOND REFERRAL:**  
Student conference with school administrator, phone call and/or form letter sent home to parent. Student will lose bus riding privileges for up to three school days.
3. **THIRD REFERRAL:**  
Student conference with school administrator, phone call and/or form letter sent home to parent. Student will lose bus riding privileges for up to five school days.
4. **FOURTH REFERRAL:**  
Student conference with school administrator, phone call and/or form letter sent home to parent. Student will lose bus riding privileges for up to ten school days.

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**5. FIFTH REFERRAL:**

Student will lose ALL BUS RIDING PRIVILEGES for the remainder of the school year.

Drivers may be present at student conferences during any level of the referral process.

The school administrator may skip steps in the referral process should particular situations arise which, in the opinion of the administrator, are extremely unsafe.

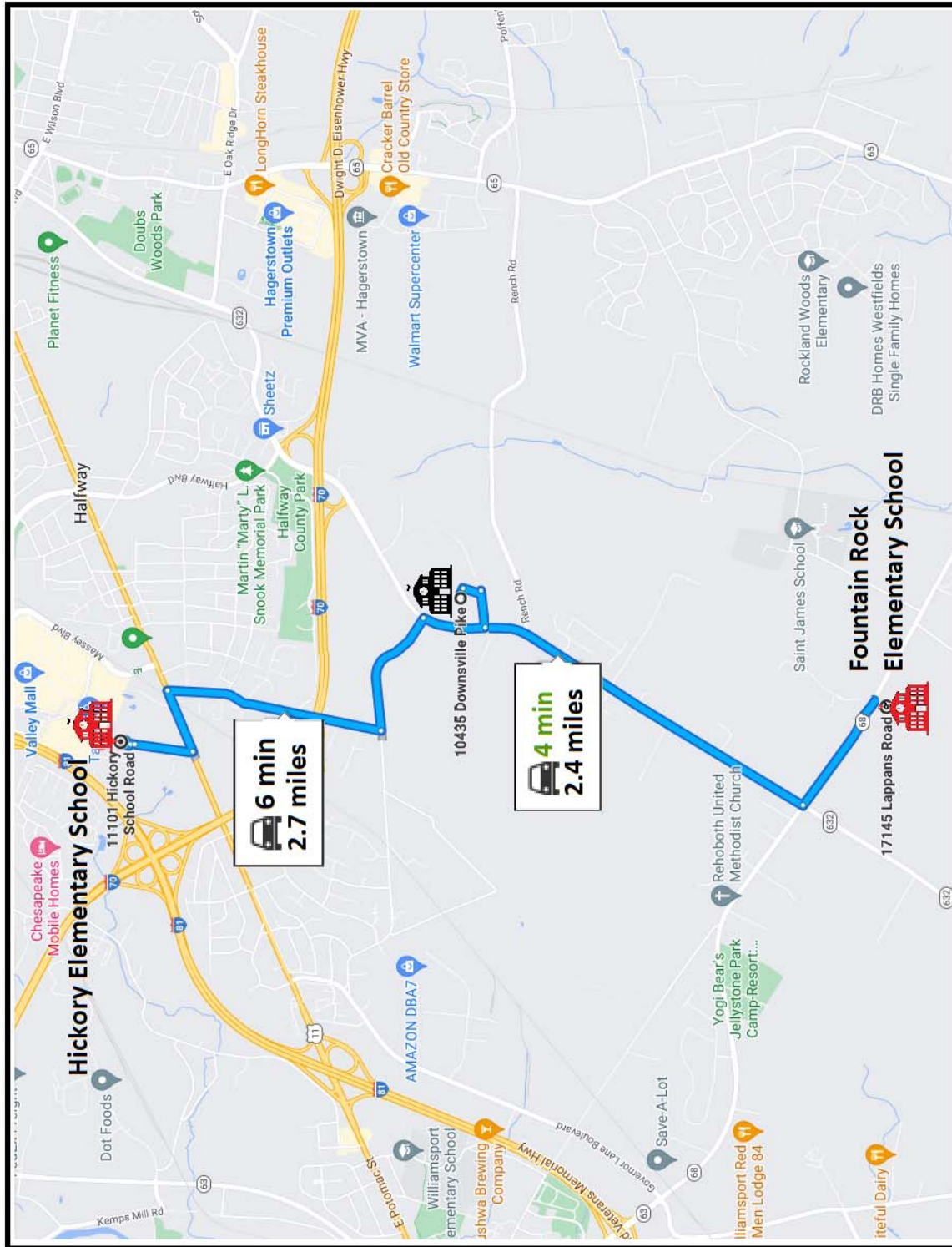
**VI. EXCEPTIONS**

The Superintendent of Schools may make exceptions to the Board Policy or Administrative Regulation under emergency conditions, when:

- A. Compliance with the Board Policy or Administrative Regulation may endanger the life and physical well being of pupils; or when
- B. Compliance with the Board Policy or Administrative Regulation may make the operation of pupil transportation impossible or unsafe due to an Act of God, strike, rebellion, or other unforeseen disturbance.

These exceptions shall remain in effect only until the next regular meeting of the Washington County Board of Education.

Administrative Regulation adopted: July 21, 1981. Amended: May 20, 2008. Amended: November 18, 2008. Amended: December 9, 2008  
Board of Education of Washington County



Distance and Travel Time between Hickory and Fountain Rock elementary school locations and the proposed Downsville Pike Elementary School location

LEA: WASHINGTON COUNTY

- NOTES:
1. Project assumes no off-site work, beyond a traffic light and new water supply that will be required.
  2. Project assumes temporary housing will be provided for students during demolition/construction. Housing may be located offsite, at a different location and could be subject to increased costs.
  3. Project and Budget reflect no additional land purchased for this site.
  4. Budget and cost share percentages subject to change based on future enrollment.
  5. Design/Budget may need to be modified to reflect future Blueprint for Education Requirements that have yet to be finalized.

Replacement Hickory Elementary School  
2-Round - No Expanded Core

State Rated Capacity Calculation	
1 Pre-K Classrooms @	20 Students/Class 20
2 Kindergarten Classrooms @	22 Students/Class 44
10 Grade 1-5 Classrooms @	23 Students/Class 230
Grade 6-8 Classrooms @	25 Students/Class 0
Grade 9-12 Classrooms @	Students/Class 0
2 Special Ed. Classrooms @	10 Students/Class 20
	<b>314 FTE Students</b>
State Maximum Gross Area Allowance	
Regular	294 x 141 sf/FTE 41,372
Special Ed	20 x 180 sf/FTE 3,600
	<b>44,972 Total sf</b>

State Construction Cost Calculation		Cost/sf		%		Total Construction Cost		79% State Share		Local Share	
New sf	44,972	x	\$ 385				\$ 17,314,087	\$ 13,678,136	\$ 3,635,960		
Cooperative Arrangement	3,000	x	\$ 385	PTA, Dny, Cmc, Expanded Gym			\$ 1,155,000	\$ 912,450	\$ 242,550		
Site Development				19%			\$ 3,509,128	\$ 2,772,211	\$ 736,917		
							<b>\$ 21,978,225</b>	<b>\$ 17,362,798</b>	<b>\$ 4,615,427</b>		

Age of Structure	Construction Year	sf to be removed	Cost/sf	% Covered	Cost
40 & Over		0	x \$ 385	100%	\$ -
31-39		0	x \$ 385	85%	\$ -
26-30		0	x \$ 385	75%	\$ -
21-25		0	x \$ 385	65%	\$ -
16-20		0	x \$ 385	50%	\$ -
0-15		0	x \$ 385	0%	\$ -
Cooperative Arrangement		0	x \$ 385		\$ -
Site Development				5%	\$ -

Maximum State Construction Cost	Less Prior State Funding	2012 Chiller Replacement \$ 190,111	
		2014 Security Initiative \$ 20,590	
		2016 Playground Project (QZAB) \$ 50,000	
<b>Net State Construction Cost</b>			<b>\$ 21,978,225</b>

Other Local Costs	Construction Costs	Additional sf	Cost	%
	Contingency	0	x \$ 385 /sf	5% local cost
	Utilities			No longer supported through state
	Water/Sewer Connection Fees			5.0% funding
	Inspection & Testing			1.5%
	Furniture & Equipment			0.5%
	Professional Service			6% Replacement Elementary School = 8%
				7% Includes Feasibility Study
	Other Project-Specific Costs			
	Offsite Improvements (Not shown - Assumed to be covered or estimated by County)			
	Upgrade of Water Service to existing area.			
	Temporary Housing for 2 school years to accommodate students during construction due to limited site size/layout			
	Demolition of existing facility			
	Local Cost Sub-total		<b>\$ 10,079,645</b>	

Maximum Budget	\$ 32,057,870	\$ 17,362,798	\$ 14,695,072
Rounding		\$ 202	\$ (72)
<b>NET FINAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 32,058,000</b>	<b>\$ 17,363,000</b>	<b>\$ 14,695,000</b>

Construction Budget for a Replacement  
2-round Fountain Rock Elementary School

LEA: WASHINGTON COUNTY

Replacement Fountain Rock Elementary School  
2-Round - No Expanded Core

State Related Capacity Calculation

1. Pre-K Classrooms @	20	Students/Class	20
2. Kindergarten Classrooms @	44	Students/Class	44
10. Grade 1-5 Classrooms @	230	Students/Class	230
Grade 6-8 Classrooms @	0	Students/Class	0
Grade 9-12 Classrooms @	0	Students/Class	0
2. Special Ed. Classrooms @	20	Students/Class	20
<b>314 FTE Students</b>			

State Maximum Gross Area Allowance

Regular	294	x	141	s/FTE	41,372
Special Ed	20	x	180	s/FTE	3,600
<b>44,972 Total sf</b>					

NOTES:

- Project assumes no off-site work, beyond water/sewer run, will be required
- Project assumes new school can be built behind existing facility (students remain in facility during construction), demolition to occur after completion of new facility
- Project and Budget reflect no additional land purchased for this site
- Project assumes sewer tank will need to be pumped X times per week for 2 years.
- Budget and cost share percentages subject to change based on future enrollment.
- Design/Budget may need to be modified to reflect future Blueprint for Education Requirements that have yet to be finalized.

State Construction Cost Calculation	Cost/sf	Total Construction Cost	79% State Share	Local Share	
New/Addition	44,972 x \$ 385	\$ 17,314,097	\$ 13,678,136	\$ 3,635,960	
Cooperative Arrangement	3,000 x \$ 385 PTA, Day Care, Expanded Gym	\$ 1,155,000	\$ 912,450	\$ 242,550	
Site Development	19%	\$ 3,509,128	\$ 2,772,211	\$ 736,917	
<b>Renovation</b>		<b>\$ 21,978,225</b>	<b>\$ 17,362,798</b>	<b>\$ 4,615,427</b>	
Age of Structure	Construction Year	To be renovated	Cost/sf	% Covered	Cost
40 & Over	0	x	\$ 385	100%	\$ -
31-39	0	x	\$ 385	85%	\$ -
26-30	0	x	\$ 385	75%	\$ -
21-25	0	x	\$ 385	65%	\$ -
16-20	0	x	\$ 385	50%	\$ -
0-15	0	x	\$ 385	0%	\$ -
Cooperative Arrangement	0	x	\$ 385		\$ -
Site Development					\$ -
<b>Maximum State Construction Cost</b>		<b>\$ 21,978,225</b>	<b>\$ 17,362,798</b>	<b>\$ 4,615,427</b>	
Less Prior State Funding	2016 Roof Replacement	\$ 401,000			
	2014 Security Initiative	\$ 25,580			
<b>Net State Construction Cost</b>		<b>\$ 21,978,225</b>	<b>\$ 17,362,798</b>	<b>\$ 4,615,427</b>	
<i>Above projects and all other state funded projects prior to 2010 are assumed to be waived</i>					
<b>Other Local Costs</b>					
Construction Costs	Additional sf				
Contingency	0	x	\$ 385 /sf		
Utilities			5.0% funding		
Water/Sewer Connection Fees			1.5%		
Inspection & Testing			0.5%		
Furniture & Equipment			6%		
Professional Service	Architect/Engineer		7%		
Other Project Specific Costs					
	Sewer tank pumping (1.5 to 2 times a week during construction) 2 years			\$ 200,000	
	Water / Sewer run to existing site			\$ 8,000,000	
	Demolition of existing facility			\$ 600,000	
<b>Local Cost Sub-total</b>		<b>\$ 13,295,645</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 13,295,645</b>	
<b>Maximum Budget</b>		<b>\$ 35,273,870</b>	<b>\$ 17,362,798</b>	<b>\$ 17,911,072</b>	
<b>Rounding</b>			<b>\$ 202</b>	<b>\$ (72)</b>	
<b>NET FINAL BUDGET</b>		<b>\$ 35,274,000</b>	<b>\$ 17,363,000</b>	<b>\$ 17,911,000</b>	





File: JCA

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS**

### **I. Purpose**

Policy JCA states the Board of Education's basis for determining the geographical attendance area for public schools.

### **II. Background**

The Annotated Code of Maryland gives the Board of Education authority to determine the geographical attendance area for each public school. The Board of Education is responsible for maintaining throughout Washington County a system of public schools that is designed to provide educational opportunities for all children.

The Board of Education is authorized to establish public schools and their geographical attendance areas, subject to the bylaws, rules, and regulations of the Maryland State Board of Education. Upon approval by the State Superintendent of Schools, any elementary, middle, or senior high school, or any school or combination of grades thereof, so established, shall become a part of the State program of public education.

### **III. Policy Statement/Procedures**

- A. The Board of Education will determine the geographical attendance area and its boundaries for each public school. The Superintendent shall keep records of such attendance areas.
- B. In determining geographical attendance areas and their boundaries, the Board of Education may request the Facilities and Enrollment Advisory Committee (FEAC) to provide recommendations to the Board for consideration. The Board will forward any recommendations made by the FEAC to the Superintendent for study in accordance with the procedures outlined in the accompanying administrative regulation.
- C. In the event administrative adjustments to school attendance areas are necessary, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to formulate recommendations for the Board's review and approval in accordance with the procedures outlined in the accompany administrative regulation.
- D. The Board of Education is committed to the use of long-range planning techniques to minimize the necessity for frequent boundary changes.
- E. Considerations guiding the establishment or change of school attendance areas include:
  - 1. the educational opportunity afforded to students in each school involved;
  - 2. the long-range enrollment projections including consideration of anticipated future residential development/construction;
  - 3. the state and local rated capacity of schools;
  - 4. the geographic location of each school in relationship to the surrounding population areas;
  - 5. the current and projected student travel time and student transportation needs;
  - 6. the continuation of the feeder school patterns;
  - 7. the opening of a new school or the necessity to close a school;
  - 8. the need to maintain racial balance in a school and/or the school system;
  - 9. the socio-economic composition of schools;
  - 10. the cost associated with the various options.

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All of the above factors will be considered, however, reconciling each and every boundary line alternative with each and every factor may not be possible.

- F. The Superintendent is authorized to promulgate an administrative regulation that will set forth the processes to be followed for the creation of recommendations for the establishment of, or administrative adjustments to, school attendance areas for consideration by the Board of Education.

Legal Reference: Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, Sections 4-108, 4-109, and 4-120

Policy adopted: December 17, 1974. Amended: February 4, 2003. Revised: October 3, 2006. Revised: August 2, 2022.  
Board of Education of Washington County

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS REGULATIONS**

The Washington County Board of Education shall appoint a Facilities and Enrollment Advisory Committee comprised of representative parents, businesspersons, and community leaders who are interested in studying and recommending proposed resolutions to enrollment issues. The Board is also authorized to seek the advice of the Superintendent, school staff or consultants on the establishment of school attendance areas.

### Facilities and Enrollment Advisory Committee Responsibilities

The Committee shall review enrollment and facilities data to make recommendations to the Board for the efficient and educationally effective use of school facilities. The Committee shall be non-partisan.

In the event the Board requests the Facilities and Enrollment Advisory Committee to provide recommendations on the establishment of school attendance areas, the Board will develop the charge to the Facilities and Enrollment Advisory Committee. The charge will set forth the nature and scope of the Committee's assignment.

### Superintendent's Report

The Facilities and Enrollment Advisory Committee is to submit its proposed plan to the Board for its consideration. The Board will forward the proposed plan to the Superintendent. The Superintendent may accept the proposed plan or offer comments with respect to the recommendations of the Committee or may develop other recommendations after consideration of staff advice, the Facilities and Enrollment Advisory Committee report, and input from other organizations and individuals who provided comments. The Superintendent's report and/or Facilities and Enrollment Advisory Committee's proposed plan, will be disseminated to the schools involved in the change of attendance area(s) proposal, for distribution to parents/students affected by the proposed changes and to members of the Board of Education.

### Public Hearing

The Board will hold a public hearing to receive comments from parents and residents and reactions to the Superintendent's recommendation. The public hearing will be advertised and parents and residents will be notified in accordance with the existing Board of Education procedure (Ref. KD-R).

In the event that the Board agrees to accept a modification or an alternative plan containing elements that substantially differ, as determined by the Board, from those on which parents and residents had an opportunity to comment at the hearing, the Board agrees to receive written comments for a period of ten (10) days following the Board's acceptance of such a modification or alternative plan. The Board will encourage comments from parents and residents at the next scheduled Board meeting.

The change in attendance area(s) plan will be acted upon by the Board within sixty (60) days of the hearing unless the Board votes to solicit further input or to conduct additional hearings relative to this matter.

The Board vote for any change in attendance area(s) shall be made and announced at least ninety (90) days prior to the effective date of implementation (except in emergency or extenuating or other unforeseen circumstances), but not later than April 30<sup>th</sup> of the year preceding the proposed change(s). The Board reserves the authority to adjust the April 30<sup>th</sup> timeline.

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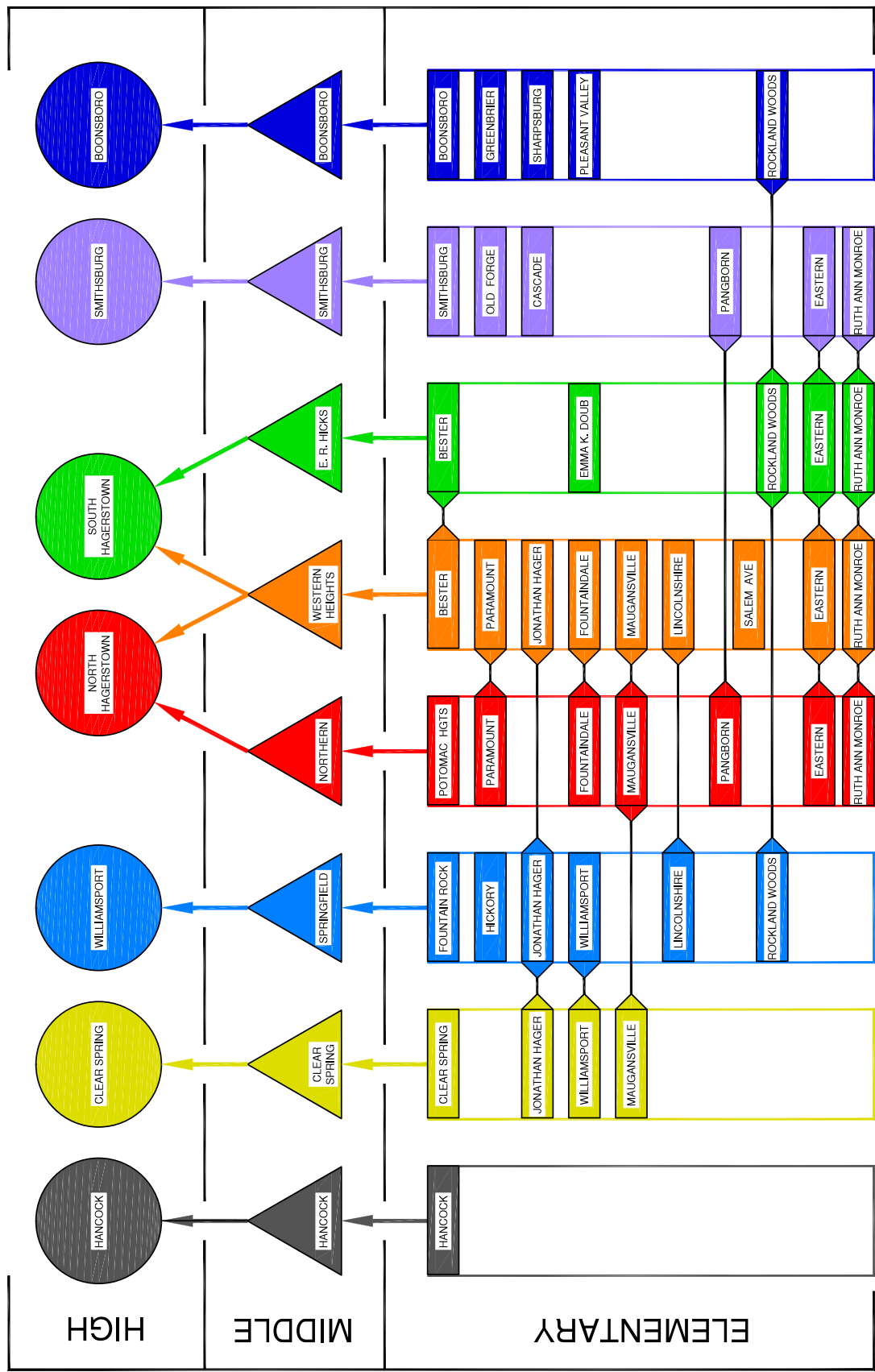
Appeal Process

Within five (5) business days from the date the Board votes to accept a recommendation regarding change in attendance area(s) decision, any interested parent/resident may appeal, in writing, by a timely notice to the President of the Board. The parent/resident shall state in writing, specific objections to the Board's decision and the basis for such objections. The Board shall within five (5) business days of said written objection, respond in writing to such objections. Any further right to appeal will be to the State Board of Education as provided by §4-205(c) of the Education Article.

Regulation adopted: July 6, 1993. Amended: February 4, 2003. Revised: October 3, 2006  
Board of Education of Washington County

# Washington County Public Schools

## School Feeder Pattern



REVISED 2/24/16



## Community Feedback Session

### Summarized Topics

**4/26/2023**

At the request of the Superintendent, staff conducted a feedback session for members of the community to provide input on the consolidation plan and to guide the writing of this report. The session was held in the auditorium of Springfield Middle School on Monday, April 26, 2023, at 6:00PM. Approximately 24 people attended, which included school staff, parents, and community members. WCPS also provided Spanish language interpreters from Hickory Elementary School. Below is a consolidation of the topics raised by members of the community during the session.

- 1) Bigger schools are not always better.
  - a. Smaller class sizes are ideal.
  - b. Maintain a community feeling so students, families and staff feel safe.
  - c. Change is hard for younger students, they want to see familiar faces in their new school.
  - d. How much redistricting will be done to accommodate the new school?
  - e. New schools are filled up as soon as they open. Will this new school be at capacity when it opens?
  - f. Will the new school be able to be enlarged if enrollment increases?
- 2) Safety at the new school site in reference to the large warehouse currently being constructed across from the school site and the proximity to the Interstate 70.
  - a. Will the new site have a fenced playground? Will it keep students off the road?
  - b. Will the new site have enough parking and stacking space to avoid traffic congestion on Downsville Pike during student arrival and dismissal?
- 3) Don't let cost be the driving factor.
  - a. Build a new school on the existing Fountain Rock site.
  - b. What will happen to the existing schools?
- 4) Is the school system trying to blend racial make-up of schools by consolidating these two facilities and noting it in the report?
- 5) How are staff being allocated to the new school?
  - a. Treat staff as the professionals that they are.
- 6) The students at Hickory Elementary deserve a better facility than what they currently have.

**WCPS**  
Washington County  
Public Schools

