

2018 Frederick County Public Schools Educational Facilities Master Plan Board of Education Approved

Executive Summary

OUR COMMITMENT

Public education is a bond between a community and its young people, its future leaders. In Frederick County, we know honoring that bond means providing outstanding instruction which relies upon the provision of sufficient facilities. Parents, students, teachers, and the wider community all know that having safe, healthy, modern school buildings is a cornerstone to our children's success. More than that, the citizens of Frederick County are proud that their schools are at the heart of their communities. Our schools belong to all of us and are used by the entire community. Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) is committed to excellence at every level of our organization—it is our goal that the community will see that commitment when they walk in the front door of any of our facilities.

OUR PLAN

To guide us as we work to meet that goal, FCPS maintains a 10-year Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP). The EFMP is our blueprint to ensure that our schools meet our high standards for excellence. We update it every year to keep it current and to keep our focus squarely on the conditions of our buildings.

FCPS uses the EFMP regularly; it guides our thinking about our facilities. Among other things, it helps us coordinate facility needs with the county and municipal plans for residential growth, it establishes our facility and funding priorities with state and local officials, and it helps us keep our construction, modernization, and repair projects running smoothly and on schedule. However, we also intend for the EFMP to be accessible and useful to our many partners: elected officials, other state and local agencies, parents, and the taxpayers of Frederick County. The EFMP includes information that is helpful to all of us—long-range enrollment projections and trends, school-by-school capacity data, and other up-to-date information about all our county schools.

OUR PROCESS

The EFMP timeline for 2018 varies from previous years to comply with an evolving state funding process. In early June, FCPS staff presents the EFMP to the Board of Education and also visits the Frederick County Planning Commission for a finding of consistency with the County Comprehensive Plan. The Board of Education (BOE) holds a public hearing in late June and adopts a final plan that reflects feedback from the BOE, Planning Commission, and the community.

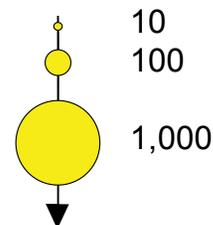
Maryland leads the nation in public education—and Frederick County is a leader in our state. In Frederick County, we want all of our facilities to showcase the excellence that we strive for as a system while also demonstrating efficient stewardship of taxpayer dollars. FCPS seeks to maximize the lifespan of our facilities while keeping pace with our students' changing educational requirements. The EFMP will help us do that in an efficient and effective manner. Excellence everywhere isn't just a goal for FCPS; it's what we do every day in every one of our buildings.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2018 ANNUAL UPDATE

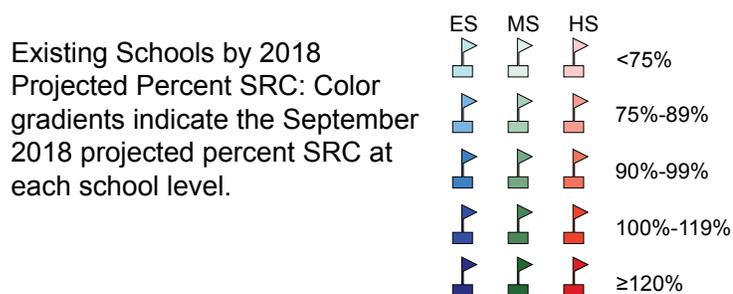
In this 2018 update, FCPS addresses the following topics, shown on the map in [Figure E1](#):

1. Enrollment: Between 2017 and 2027 the school system will need to accommodate an equated enrollment increase of approximately 3,600 students, occurring primarily in the residential development areas highlighted on the map.

Potential Students Generated by Future Development: Yellow circles indicate the relative number of students to be generated by approved residential developments.



2. School Capacity: FCPS is close to reaching the BOE’s goal of 90% of state rated capacity (SRC) at all levels. System-wide, elementary enrollment exceeds the Board’s goal of 90% of SRC, reaching a high of 99% within the ten-year plan if no new seats are added other than those already under construction. However, the new elementary schools proposed in the plan allow us to meet the goal by the middle of the ten year period. Middle school enrollments system-wide have currently met the Board’s goal of 90% of SRC but are projected to exceed that by the middle of the ten year period if no new capacity is added. However, the proposed middle school addition project will bring the middle school system-wide capacity to 87% of SRC by 2027. Finally, at the high school level, enrollments are at 86% system-wide but are expected to reach 100% by the end of the ten-year period without additional capacity. Additional capacity at Brunswick High School will bring FCPS to 96% of SRC at the high school level by the end of the ten year period. For the 2018-19 school year, nine elementary, five middle and two high schools are expected to be at or over 100% capacity, as shown on the map.



3. Growing Smart for the Future: The EFMP calls for approximately 4,500 additional elementary seats by 2027 via new elementary schools on the northern and southern sides of Frederick City and eastern Frederick County, as well as the opening of Sugarloaf Elementary (used temporarily as a holding school). A replacement/addition at Urbana Elementary and Waverley Elementary, and a modernization/addition at Liberty Elementary will also add much-needed capacity. Additional capacity needed at the high school level will be added with the modernization/addition at Brunswick High School. The Rock Creek replacement will add capacity for special education programs and provide spaces that can better achieve the school’s educational requirements. As the plans for these new schools are developed, FCPS strives to minimize construction costs and maximize utilization of spaces to make efficient use of state and local funding.

Future schools in ten-year plan

4. Sustaining Our Facilities: FCPS has 45 schools that are, in whole or part, 25 or more years old. Modernizations at Liberty Elementary, Brunswick High, Middletown Middle, Middletown High, and Walkersville Middle as well as systemic projects will help FCPS extend the lifespan of our existing schools so that they can continue to support student achievement.



Figure E1: Executive Summary Highlights Map

