

# 2015 Frederick County Public Schools Educational Facility Master Plan Board of Education Approved

## Executive Summary

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### 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 not only outstanding instruction but also excellent 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 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. This plan is our blueprint to ensure that our schools meet our high standards for excellence. We update our Plan every year to keep it current and to keep our focus squarely on the conditions of our buildings.

FCPS uses this Plan 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 this Plan to be accessible and useful to our many partners: elected officials, other state and local agencies, parents, and the taxpayers of Frederick County. This Plan 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.

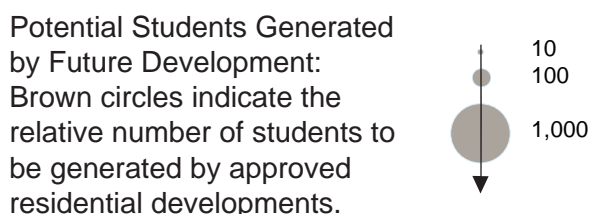
### OUR PROCESS

FCPS staff presents the Plan to the Board of Education in August and then to the Frederick County Planning Commission for a finding of consistency with the County Comprehensive Plan before the Board holds a public hearing in September. We anticipate adoption of a final plan (which reflects feedback from the Board, Planning Commission, state, and the community) in September 2015. 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 we are also mindful that we are stewards of the taxpayers' dollars. FCPS is on an accelerated course of achievement, determined to make sure that our facilities keep pace with our students. This Plan 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.

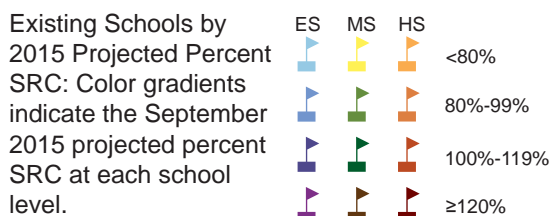
## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2015 ANNUAL UPDATE

In this 2015 update, FCPS addresses the following topics, which can be referenced on the map in Figure E1:

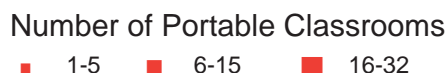
1. Enrollment Growth: Between 2014 and 2024 the school system will need to accommodate an enrollment increase of 3,491 students, which will occur primarily in the residential development areas highlighted on the map.



2. Overcrowding: System-wide elementary enrollment exceeds the Board of Education's goal of 90% state-rated capacity, reaching a high of 105% within the 10-year Plan if no new seats are added; middle school and high school enrollments are projected to be within 85% and 93% of state-rated capacity, respectively. For the 2015-16 school year, 15 elementary, two middle and one high school are at or over 100% capacity, as shown on the map.



3. Increasing Existing Capacity: Installation of portable classrooms is FCPS's short-term solution to reduce overcrowding. In the 2015-16 school year, FCPS will use 141 portable classrooms at 21 elementary schools, 12 portables at three middle schools, 13 portables at two high schools, and 9 portables at two special schools, as shown by the squares on the map.



4. Building for the Future: The Plan calls for addition of approximately 3,500 elementary seats by 2024 via new elementary schools in Urbana, the west, north, and southern portions of the City of Frederick, and eastern Frederick county. A replacement/addition at Urbana Elementary, a renovation/addition at Liberty Elementary, and an addition at Waverley Elementary will also add much-needed capacity.

✱ Future Schools

5. Sustaining Our Facilities: Renovations or replacements at Urbana Elementary, Liberty Elementary, Middletown Middle, Middletown High, and Rock Creek School, as well as replacement of Frederick High, will help our existing schools continue to flourish.

★ Renovations or Replacements

**Figure E1: Executive Summary Highlights Map**

