

2016 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 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.

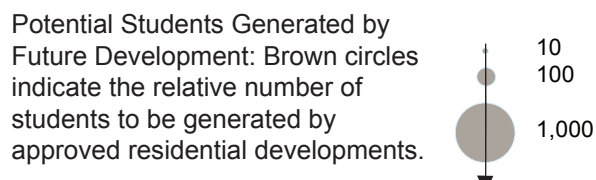
OUR PROCESS

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. The Board of Education of Frederick County has adopted a final plan (which reflects feedback from the Board, Planning Commission, state, and the community) in September 2016. 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 being 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.

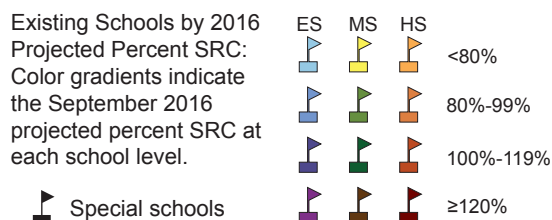
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2016 ANNUAL UPDATE

In this 2016 update, FCPS addresses the following topics, shown on the map in Figure E1:

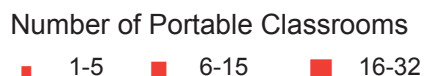
1. Enrollment: Between 2015 and 2025 the school system will need to accommodate an equated enrollment increase of 1,681 students, occurring primarily in the residential development areas highlighted on the map.



2. School Capacity: FCPS is close to reaching the Board of Education’s goal of 90% state rated capacity (SRC) at all levels. System-wide, elementary enrollment slightly exceeds the Board’s goal of 90% SRC, reaching a high of 92% within the ten-year plan if no new seats are added other than those already in design or construction. However, the new elementary schools proposed in the plan allow us to meet the goal by the end of the ten year period. Middle school and high school enrollments system-wide have currently met the Board’s goal of 90% SRC and are projected to be within 85% and 92% of SRC, respectively, throughout the ten-year period. For the 2016-17 school year, twelve elementary, one middle and one high school are expected to be at or over 100% capacity, as shown on the map.



3. Short-term Solutions: Installation of portable classrooms is FCPS’s short-term solution to reduce overcrowding. In the 2016-17 school year, FCPS will use 152 portable classrooms at 20 elementary schools, 5 portables at 2 middle schools, 12 portables at 3 high schools, and 10 portables at 2 special schools, as shown on the map.



4. Building for the Future: The Plan calls for approximately 3,500 additional elementary seats by 2025 via new elementary schools in Urbana, the western and norther sides of Frederick City and eastern Frederick County. A replacement/addition at Urbana Elementary, and a modernization/addition at Waverley and Liberty Elementary Schools will also add much-needed capacity.

Future schools in ten-year plan

5. Sustaining Our Facilities: With this plan FCPS is projected to achieve our goal of 90 percent SRC system-wide at each level. Therefore we are in a unique position to focus our resources on modernizing our older schools. FCPS has 42 schools that are, in whole or part, 25 or more years old. Renovations or replacements at Urbana Elementary, Rock Creek School, Liberty Elementary, Middletown Middle, Middletown High, and Walkersville Middle, as well as the replacement of Frederick High currently underway, will help our existing schools continue to flourish.

Renovations or Replacements

Figure E1: Executive Summary Highlights Map

