

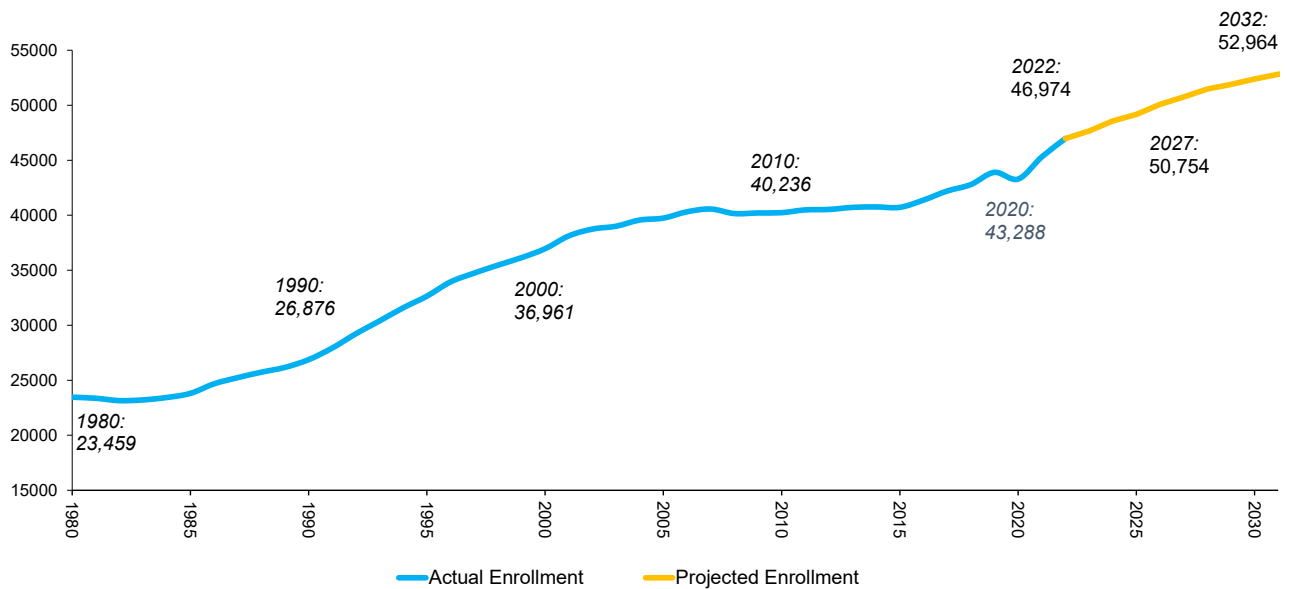
5. Enrollments and Capacity Needs

SYSTEM-WIDE ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Historic Enrollments

As shown in Figure 5A, FCPS experienced the greatest rate of enrollment growth in the 1990's when enrollment increased by 10,085 students. Between 2000 and 2010, total enrollment increased by 3,275 students. Between 2010 and 2020, enrollment increased by 3,052 students. The total number of students is anticipated to increase by 5,990 students between 2022 and 2032. As will be discussed later in this chapter, the decrease in the 2020 enrollment was due in large part to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that required virtual instruction for the 2020-21 school year. However, even with this decline in 2020, FCPS is currently the fastest growing public school system in Maryland. FCPS enrollment has increased by nearly 10% over the past 5 years, while 18 other school systems saw decreases during the same period.

Figure 5A: Total Enrollments 1980-2032³



3. Figure 5A uses total enrollments counting every child that is served by FCPS. Other tables and figures in this report use equated enrollments assigning a value of one-half to students enrolled in half-day prekindergarten. Equated enrollments are used in funding formulas, school capacity calculations and planning future school facility needs.

Projected Enrollments

System-wide enrollment projections (excluding pre-K students), developed with information provided by the Maryland Department of Planning, were submitted to the Maryland Department of Planning for approval in April 2023.

The 10-year enrollment projections utilize a cohort survival method. A cohort is the total number of students in a particular grade level. This method has three components:

1. Analyze the historical cohort progression from grade to grade. Future cohort progression is then determined based upon historical trends, housing development patterns, and pupil-yield trends.
2. Base kindergarten projections on the ratio of kindergarten to births five years prior using historic birth to kindergarten ratios and birth data supplied by the Maryland Department of Planning.
3. Determine the county-wide pre-K-12 total projected enrollment for any year by totaling each grade's projected enrollment for all schools.

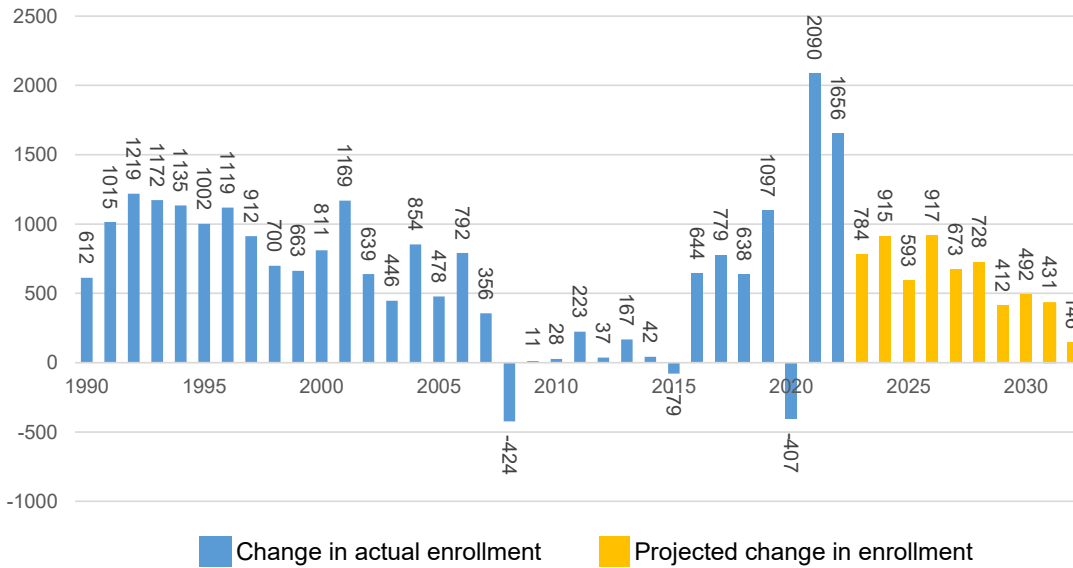
This method has proven to be very accurate in projecting total system-wide enrollments. In the past 10 years, projected enrollments have been within .01% and 1.38% of the actual enrollments with the exception of September 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and families' choices for educating their children during the pandemic, enrollments in September 2020 decreased from the previous year despite a robust residential housing market and an increase of County residents. FCPS enrollment data indicates that the number of students opting for home instruction and private school increased following the announcement that a virtual education program would be in place beginning in the 2020-21 school year. Projections for September 2020 were within 3.9% of actual enrollments.

While the cohort survival method has been very accurate in projecting system wide enrollments, this method has been less effective in projecting individual school enrollments especially for attendance areas experiencing new rapid residential growth. In these areas, historic grade succession rates are less likely to accurately predict grade succession for that attendance area in the last five years of the 10-year projections. Projections for those attendance areas will likely take a few years of actual growth to discern an appropriate grade succession rate to use. In addition, areas experience high transient populations can also be difficult to project enrollments as trends vary widely in these areas.

As noted previously, total projected enrollments included in the EFMP must be within 5% of the state's projections. While we accepted the state's birth to kindergarten ratios so that our out-year projections would be within 5% of the state's projections for FCPS, we are concerned that the state used declining birth to kindergarten ratios over the 10- year period that end in a ratio of 1 to calculate their projections. These ratios are inconsistent with our historical birth-kindergarten information and the rapidly growing residential housing market that Frederick County has experienced over the last five or more years including during COVID. Our two-year average Birth to Kindergarten ratio is 1.15, our 3-year average is 1.11 and our 5-year average is 1.11. We see no evidence of a declining birth to kindergarten ratio in Frederick County. Therefore, we believe that the state's projections in the last five years of the 10-year projections may be conservative.

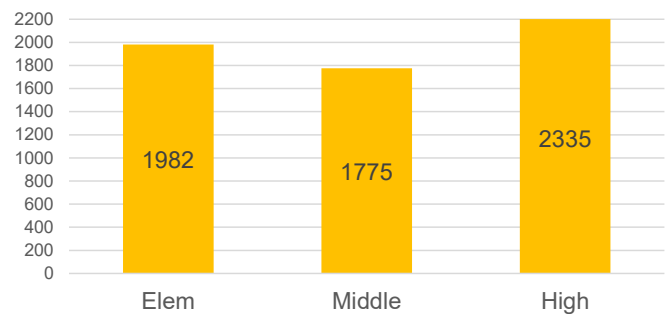
[Figure 5B](#) illustrates the change in equated enrollments since 1990. Between 1990 and 2000, equated enrollments increased by 950 students on average annually. Between 2000 and 2010, enrollments increased, on average, 430 students each year. The first half of the last decade, averaged an increase of 100 students each year while the last five years averaged an increase of 615 students annually with the exception of 2020. Equated enrollments decreased by approximately 400 students between 2019 and 2020. However, with the return of in-person instruction, enrollments increased by more than 2,000 students in 2021. The following year, equated enrollments increased by 1,656 students. It is projected that equated enrollment will increase by 784 students in September 2023. During the next 10 years, equated enrollments system-wide are projected to fluctuate, averaging around 800 for the first five years and around 400 for the end of the 10-year period.

Figure 5B: Annual Equated Enrollment Increase - 1990 to 2032



The largest increase in enrollments over the next 10 years is at the high school level, although all three levels will have significant increases. Of the projected 6,092 student increase in equated enrollment between 2022 and 2032, FCPS expects an increase of approximately 2,335 high school students. Growth at the elementary school level follows close behind with an increase of almost 1,990 equated students in the next 10 years while growth at the middle school level is anticipated to be 1,775 students.

Figure 5C: Projected Equated Enrollment Growth by Grade Level² - 2022 to 2032



2. Figure 5C does not include projected students enrolled in special schools.

Geographic Locations of Enrollment Growth

Enrollment growth at individual schools will be influenced by the location of major residential development activity. FCPS continuously monitors county and municipal plans as well as residential building permits to keep track of potential for student growth. The data and maps indicate that most major residential developments now planned or under construction are located either in the Frederick City area, or in the I-70 corridor east of Frederick City. See [Chapter 2](#) and [Figure 2B](#) for details on housing developments and projected pupil yields.

Pupil Yield Rates

In order to estimate the number of students that may be generated by future housing developments, the County regularly conducts a study of the number of students living in each type of housing. A pupil yield rate, by school attendance areas, is then published for single family detached, single family attached (i.e. townhouse), and multifamily (i.e. apartments or condos) dwelling units. A county-wide average is used for two-over-two type townhouse units due to their scarcity. The official pupil yield rates (see [Appendix I](#)) are used for APFO testing (as discussed in [Chapter 2](#)) and to evaluate grade succession rates. Capital Programs Department staff routinely conduct additional studies of pupil yield to evaluate changes in rapidly developing areas. These studies help inform the assumptions made for enrollment projections. [Appendix I](#) lists the current approved 2022 pupil yield rates.

SCHOOL TRENDS

Projected Enrollments by Schools

Table 5A: FCPS Equated Enrollment Projections

Includes capacity with approved construction funding.

	State Rated Capacity	Actual				Projected						
		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Remote Virtual Program		138	115	115	120	120	125	125	125	130	135	135
1 Ballenger Creek Elementary	636	653	712	754	776	804	812	823	828	830	833	831
2 Blue Heron Elementary	677	680	748	806	872	902	897	916	925	926	935	931
3 Brunswick Elementary	725	712	724	727	723	733	750	766	775	770	776	775
4 Butterfly Ridge Elementary	762	568	596	609	619	618	620	627	640	640	636	634
5 Carroll Creek Montessori	180	220	245	224	221	221	220	220	220	220	223	223
6 Carroll Manor Elementary	573	521	534	504	497	496	500	502	505	502	506	506
7 Centerville Elementary	627	439	472	460	465	476	464	479	486	490	493	481
8 Deer Crossing Elementary	568	504	511	529	529	548	539	544	546	542	541	541
9 Emmitsburg Elementary	225	216	219	214	223	223	224	229	230	229	230	230
10 Frederick Classical	250	250	249	249	250	252	253	253	253	253	253	253
11 Glade Elementary	582	547	530	538	529	534	540	543	552	550	552	550
12 Green Valley Elementary	501	786	853	922	958	1036	1060	1010	990	962	985	950
13 Hillcrest Elementary	534	572	546	546	543	538	531	536	545	546	549	542
14 Kemptown Elementary	388	400	415	414	414	423	408	423	420	420	423	429
15 Lewistown Elementary	209	155	175	177	177	179	169	177	169	170	178	179
16 Liberty Elementary	271	237	234	251	265	287	283	288	280	285	274	274
17 Lincoln Elementary	643	601	606	607	634	648	642	644	642	640	640	651
18 Middletown Elementary	480	440	447	468	492	483	467	462	476	480	485	482
19 Middletown Primary	432	465	466	468	469	482	487	492	487	493	489	490
20 Monocacy Elementary	550	561	545	538	550	545	545	546	564	562	555	552
21 Monocacy Valley Montessori	180	194	203	206	207	205	207	208	208	208	208	208
22 Myersville Elementary	434	406	404	408	429	425	427	432	431	440	440	440
23 New Market Elementary	627	581	588	605	622	621	630	628	630	642	642	639
24 New Midway/Woodsboro Elementary	314	275	274	270	259	262	264	264	270	270	268	268
25 North Frederick Elementary	755	604	600	624	637	651	648	664	677	680	683	678
26 Oakdale Elementary	707	1019	1073	1165	1170	1244	1250	1272	1289	1290	1289	1299
27 Orchard Grove Elementary	562	590	605	586	578	565	571	578	595	610	631	640
28 Parkway Elementary	236	257	264	274	279	282	285	290	291	292	292	290
29 Sabillasville Environmental	120	131	128	130	129	124	123	120	120	120	120	120
30 Spring Ridge Elementary	647	611	615	628	643	649	667	672	690	676	680	681
31 Sugarloaf Elementary	754	826	887	974	1001	1046	1012	1011	979	894	850	813
32 Thurmont Elementary	483	276	271	259	254	245	256	247	260	262	265	257
33 Thurmont Primary	470	309	301	301	303	313	313	314	322	320	318	315
34 Tuscarora Elementary	633	772	768	782	780	787	779	783	800	799	800	799
35 Twin Ridge Elementary	681	658	686	704	715	730	727	715	710	690	673	640
36 Urbana Elementary	764	667	710	753	767	803	815	813	822	818	817	807
37 Valley Elementary	499	488	506	530	548	560	576	560	544	525	510	495
38 Walkersville Elementary	701	690	706	725	748	760	765	793	809	813	808	801
39 Waverley Elementary	1019	828	837	831	854	876	880	886	894	903	899	884
40 Whittier Elementary	624	706	680	701	713	729	742	754	759	763	765	762
41 Wolfsville Elementary	200	157	159	158	158	159	164	167	165	157	160	169
42 Yellow Springs Elementary	453	584	579	595	604	620	628	634	642	640	636	632
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TOTAL	21,676	21,294	21,786	22,329	22,724	23,204	23,265	23,410	23,565	23,452	23,445	23,276
TOTAL PERCENT OF CAPACITY*		100%	101%	103%	103%	105%	105%	106%	106%	106%	106%	105%

Elementary enrollments are equated for half day Pre-K programs

Percent SRC

<75%

75-89%

90-99%

100-119%

≥120%

	State Rated Capacity	Actual				Projected						
		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Remote Virtual Program		167	139	140	145	150	150	150	140	140	140	140
43 Ballenger Creek Middle	859	787	751	729	716	727	746	739	736	729	740	767
44 Brunswick Middle	957	643	634	623	630	651	650	639	632	642	655	672
45 Carroll Creek Montessori (2)	90	87	85	87	89	91	90	89	89	87	89	89
46 Crestwood Middle	882	729	774	857	822	830	826	895	895	900	851	862
47 Frederick Classical (3)	126	125	126	124	122	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
48 Gov. Thomas Johnson Middle	838	538	529	535	557	592	600	613	604	616	636	663
49 Middletown Middle	1052	788	767	798	799	827	840	856	830	827	825	848
50 Monocacy Middle	914	903	904	849	839	878	902	928	938	970	970	978
51 Monocacy Valley Montessori	90	89	89	90	91	92	92	92	90	90	93	93
52 New Market Middle	774	681	706	700	715	721	761	793	783	771	786	810
53 Oakdale Middle	1158	1049	1121	1182	1284	1336	1503	1532	1571	1565	1591	1652
54 Sabillasville Environmental	60	23	40	64	59	62	63	65	60	60	60	60
55 Thurmont Middle	924	529	496	476	449	442	436	430	410	401	416	430
56 Urbana Middle	1020	1119	1121	1124	1173	1220	1350	1418	1435	1446	1415	1409
57 Walkersville Middle	1105	830	791	751	734	766	795	789	779	778	807	839
58 West Frederick Middle	1094	756	717	719	720	726	759	768	751	753	762	778
59 Windsor Knolls Middle	978	737	752	829	920	964	1043	1099	1148	1125	1122	1145
MIDDLE SCHOOL TOTAL	12,921	10,580	10,542	10,677	10,864	11,195	11,726	12,015	12,011	12,020	12,078	12,355
TOTAL PERCENT OF CAPACITY*		82%	82%	81%	82%	85%	89%	91%	91%	91%	91%	93%
Percent SRC		<75%		75-89%		90-99%		100-119%		≥120%		

	State Rated Capacity	Actual				Projected						
		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Remote Virtual Program		259	259	260	265	265	270	270	265	265	270	270
60 Brunswick High	928	829	850	879	887	898	906	915	918	911	908	900
61 Catoctin High	1046	765	755	765	746	704	674	644	636	616	595	579
62 Frederick High	1601	1791	1842	1820	1707	1661	1639	1621	1651	1692	1756	1772
63 Gov Thomas Johnson High	2171	1911	1919	1872	1738	1691	1671	1685	1773	1840	1875	2012
64 Linganore High	1642	1554	1586	1612	1609	1686	1760	1828	1846	1908	1985	1989
65 Middletown High	1328	1081	1089	1077	1091	1092	1092	1102	1125	1155	1118	1093
66 Monocacy Valley Montessori	60	0	60	120	180	240	240	240	240	240	240	240
67 Oakdale High	1512	1597	1686	1789	1903	1964	2053	2207	2270	2452	2572	2477
68 Tuscarora High	1749	1675	1663	1691	1709	1701	1704	1714	1720	1758	1737	1729
69 Urbana High	1899	1912	1994	2035	2121	2187	2212	2318	2355	2529	2718	2758
70 Walkersville High	1065	1194	1200	1215	1189	1163	1112	1083	1089	1119	1090	1084
HIGH SCHOOL TOTAL	15,001	14,568	14,903	15,135	15,145	15,252	15,333	15,627	15,888	16,485	16,864	16,903
TOTAL PERCENT OF CAPACITY		97%	99%	100%	100%	100%	101%	103%	105%	109%	111%	111%
Percent SRC		<75%		75-89%		90-99%		100-119%		≥120%		

Other:

(Rock Creek, Heather Ridge, Virtual School, SUCCESS)	268	190	185	190	190	190	190	190	190	190	190	190
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TOTAL EQUATED	49,866	46,632	47,416	48,331	48,923	49,841	50,514	51,242	51,654	52,147	52,577	52,724
TOTAL PERCENT OF CAPACITY*		94%	95%	96%	97%	98%	100%	101%	102%	103%	104%	104%

*Includes projects with construction funding approved.

Source: Frederick County Public Schools, Capital Programs Department; May 2023

Elementary School Trends

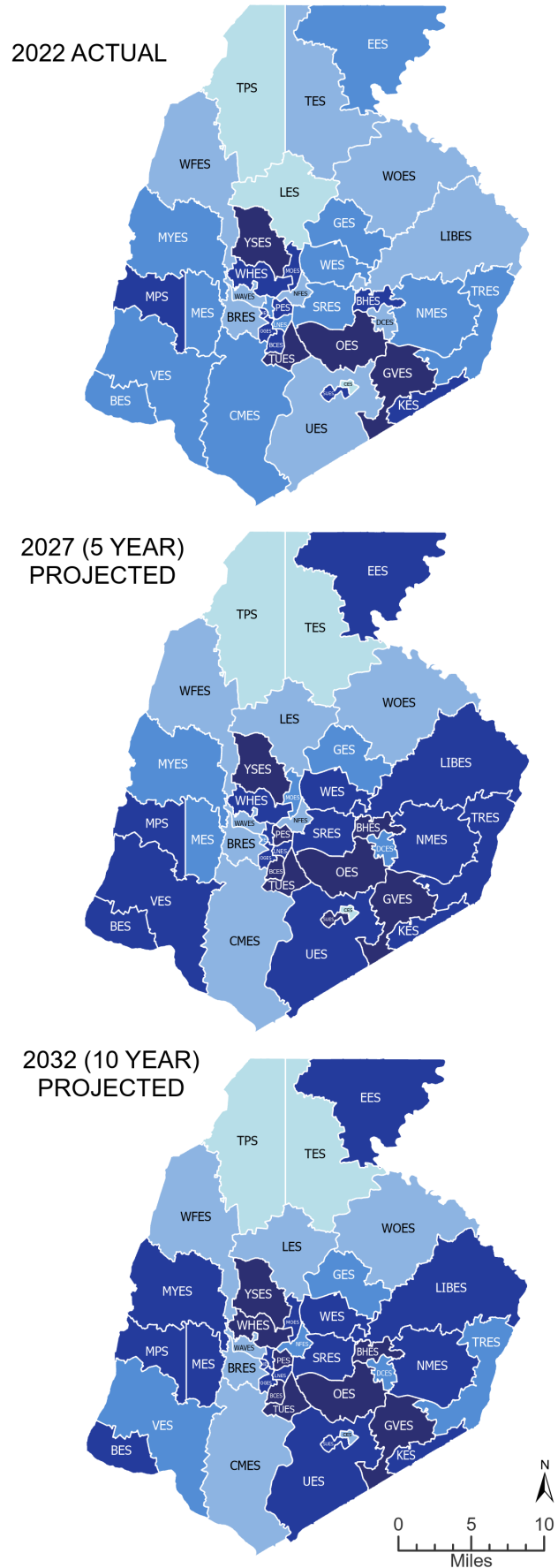
Individual elementary school utilization varies. In general, school enrollments are growing in and around Frederick City and in the fast-growing area of the I-70 corridor and Brunswick. Schools outside of growth areas generally have stable or declining enrollments, although the school itself may be overcrowded if the area was growing previously. School enrollments in the northern part of the county are generally stable or declining. Individual school trends are summarized in [Chapter 7](#). FCPS projects that at least 15 elementary schools will see growth and exceed capacity at least over the next five years.

The BOE approved changes to attendance boundaries for the Waverley Area Redistricting study which were implemented with the opening of the larger Waverley ES replacement building in fall 2022. Adjustments were made to Butterfly Ridge ES, Hillcrest ES and Whittier ES attendance areas to rebalance enrollments between the four schools.

Despite the opening of Blue Heron ES and the subsequent attendance boundary changes that went into effect in 2021, enrollments at Oakdale ES remain at 144% of SRC and are expected to continue to climb to over 184% of SRC. Spring Ridge and Blue Heron elementary schools are also experiencing high enrollments and continued growth leading to the need for another new elementary school in this part of the County.

Green Valley ES is also significantly over capacity at 157% of SRC. While a replacement school for Green Valley ES adding approximately 225 seats is currently in design, the school is expected to be over capacity at 131% to 146% if attendance boundaries are not revised. Finally, Tuscarora ES is currently at 122% of SRC and expected to reach 126%.

Figure 5E: Elementary School Percent of SRC Over Time



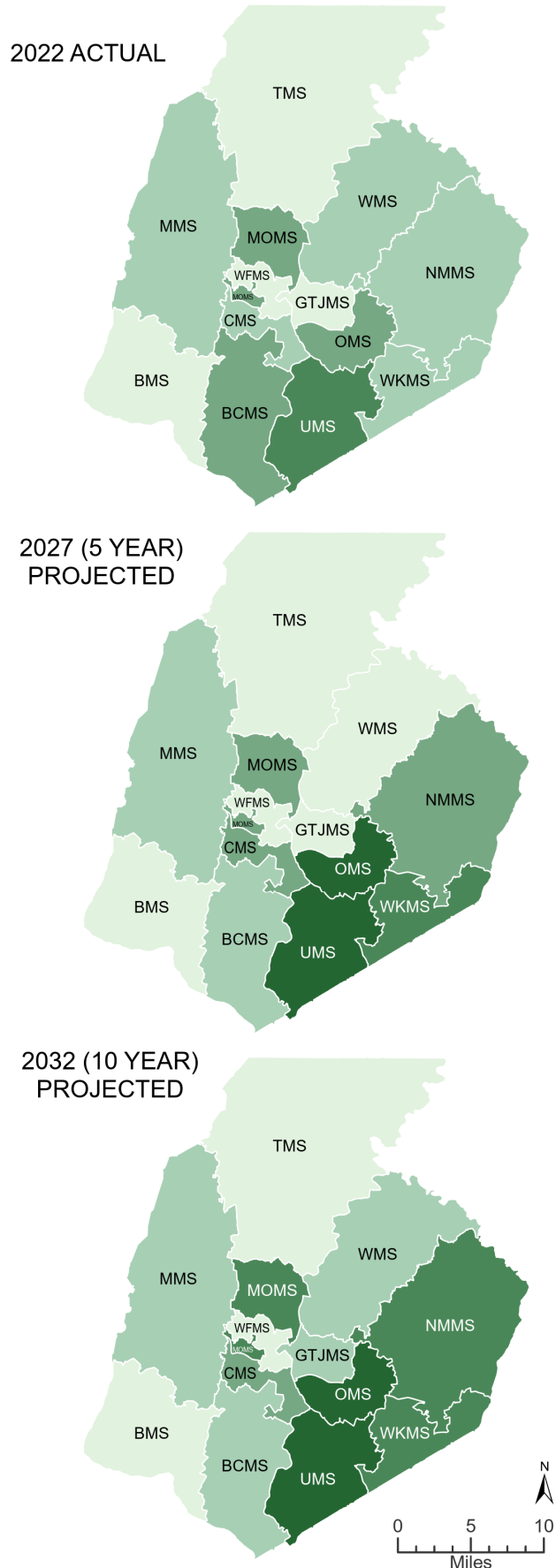
See maps in [Figure 5E](#) for geographic locations and projected growth over time and see [Table 5A](#) for 10-year enrollment projections. The percent SRC over time is also displayed on an [interactive timeline map](#).

Middle School Trends

Trends at middle schools will vary significantly over the next 10 years. Growth is projected in the Frederick City area and the eastern part of the county. Over the next 10 years, middle school enrollments are expected to increase by almost 1,775 students. The most significant growth is expected at Monocacy, Oakdale, Urbana and Windsor Knolls middle schools. See map in Figure 5F for geographic locations and projected growth over time. The percent SRC over time is also displayed on an [interactive timeline map](#).

While the system-wide capacity at the middle school level is at 82% of SRC and remains below 93%, some areas of the county are experiencing higher rates of growth. An addition of 298 seats at Oakdale Middle School (MS) opened in the fall of 2021 to help alleviate the need for middle school capacity on the east side of the county. However, Oakdale MS is expected to again be over capacity by 2024 due to the significant residential housing development in the area. While Urbana MS is currently at capacity, it is expected to reach 142% of SRC by 2030. An addition to Crestwood MS of 319 seats will open in the fall of 2024 to address middle school capacity needs in the Frederick City area. A redistricting study is underway to redistribute middle school students to fully utilize this new building capacity as well as existing capacity of adjoining middle schools.

Figure 5F: Middle School Percent of SRC Over Time

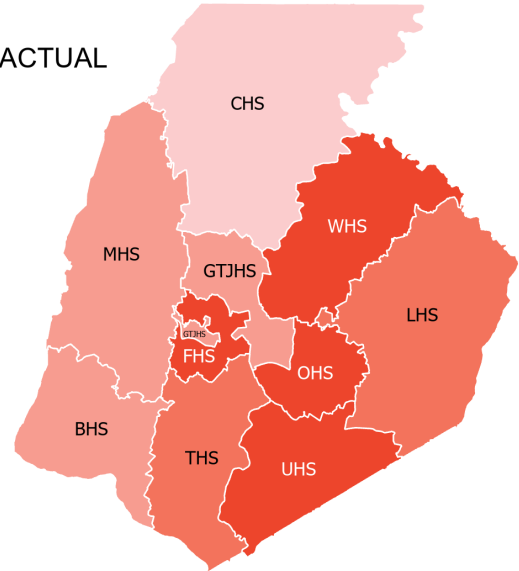


High School Trends

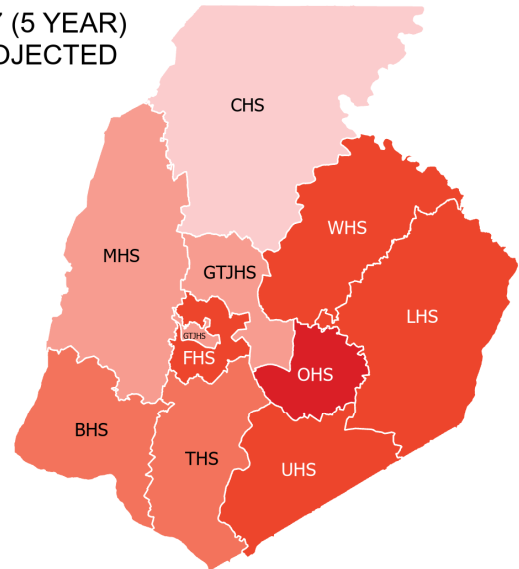
Four of the high schools, Frederick, Oakdale, Urbana and Walkersville, are currently over capacity. All four are anticipated to remain over capacity throughout the next 10 years. Linganore is projected to also be over capacity within the next few years. Linganore, Oakdale and Urbana are expected to be at 121%, 164%, and 145% respectively by 2032. The four high schools serving the County east of Frederick City will collectively be more than 2,000 students over capacity by 2030, indicating the need for another high school within the 10-year time period. See map in Figure 5G for geographic locations and projected growth over time. The percent SRC over time is also displayed on an [interactive timeline map](#).

Figure 5G: High School Percent of SRC Over Time

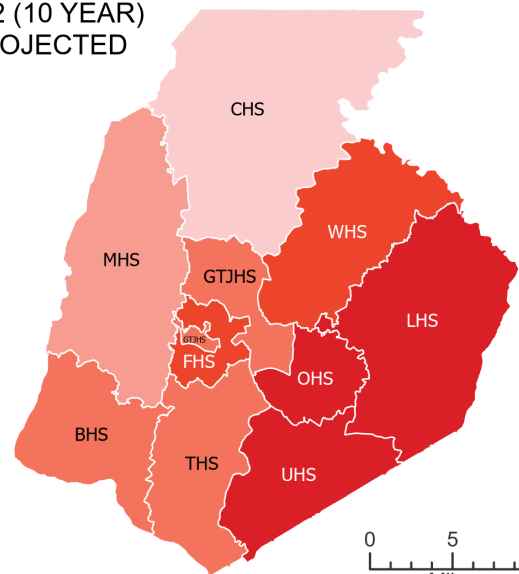
2022 ACTUAL



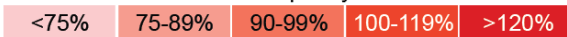
2027 (5 YEAR) PROJECTED



2032 (10 YEAR) PROJECTED



Percent of State Rated Capacity



Note: Projections do not take into account new capacity unless funding has been awarded and new attendance areas have been determined.

Source: Frederick County Public Schools and Frederick County GIS.

