

## I. Introduction

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With highly ranked educational programs, Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) is a fundamental part of Frederick County and a reason why many people choose to move here. Over the past several decades, population growth in the county has been steady (see [Figure 2A](#)), mostly concentrated around Frederick City, the I-70 corridor and in the southeastern part of the county along the I-270 corridor.

During the 1990s and early 2000s, the FCPS student population grew by more than 10,000 students and resources were focused on adding capacity. From 2006 to 2015, the student population growth rate was lower and FCPS was able to shift some resources to modernization of older schools. In recent years, FCPS has balanced resources between adding capacity (especially at the elementary and high school level) in key growth areas and modernizing or replacing older schools.

As of spring 2020, FCPS is responding to the public school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic by delivering remote continuity of education programming for students. In addition to ongoing school construction and systemic repairs, FCPS staff is evaluating physical building needs required to reopen the schools when permitted by the Governor's Roadmap to Recovery plan. FCPS staff is also carefully monitoring residential development approvals, residential dwelling unit permits, and student enrollments for both the County and municipalities to identify changes in school enrollment trends. The September 2021 enrollment projections will be reevaluated this fall following evaluation of the actual September 2020 enrollments. Revised September 2021 enrollment projections will be published in December 2020. Due to the uncertainty of the impact of the current Coronavirus pandemic on enrollments in the fall, updated projections for September 2021 may be delayed and/or further revised in early 2021.

The mission of FCPS is to Reach our students with exceptional teaching and caring support, Challenge them to achieve their potential, and Prepare them for success in a global society. To this end, FCPS continues to provide opportunities for new and innovative educational programs as well as educational services mandated by the state.

The Board of Education (BOE) developed five aspirational goals to meet this mission. These goals include:

Aspirational Goal 1: FCPS will equip each and every student to be an empowered learner and an engaged citizen to achieve a positive impact in the local and global community.

Aspirational Goal 2: FCPS will hire, support, and retain staff who champion individual, professional, and student excellence.

Aspirational Goal 3: FCPS will pursue and utilize all resources strategically and responsibly to achieve identified outcomes and inspire public confidence.

Aspirational Goal 4: FCPS will nurture relationships with families and the entire community, sharing responsibility for student success and demonstrating pride in all aspects of our school system.

Aspirational Goal 5: FCPS will promote a culture fostering wellness and civility for students and staff.

FCPS' 10-year Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) speaks directly to these goals by detailing the school facilities' renovation and capacity needs, outlining the priority school facility planning, construction and systemic project priorities, and identifying potential redistricting studies that support the school facility needs and projects.

## PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

FCPS projects enrollments and identifies facility needs 10 years into the future to allow the time necessary to plan, design and construct new facilities. Included in the 10-year EFMP is the FY22 FCPS Proposed Capital Budget that serves as the basis for annual capital funding requests to the state and county (see [Appendix A](#)).

Our 10-year EFMP is designed to:

- Inform the community, and state and county officials about FCPS' long-range plans for educational facility improvements.
- Document FCPS' long-range enrollment projections and future facility needs.
- Provide a common point of reference to allow FCPS to coordinate future new educational facility locations with county and municipal officials and coordinate future facility needs and funding requirements with state officials.
- Document FCPS' schedule of major construction, replacement, renovation and maintenance projects.
- Comply with state regulations that require FCPS, and all local jurisdictions, to update its EFMP annually.

## PLAN APPROVAL PROCESS

FCPS updates the EFMP each year in accordance with the requirements in the Maryland Public School Construction Program "Administrative Procedures Guide." While FCPS writes its own master plan, the state's administrative procedures guide defines the required content of the plan.

FCPS' EFMP is updated each year by our Capital Programs Department. The update process includes several steps that help to ensure that our facilities' needs and recommendations are as current as possible. These steps are:

1. Update 10 year enrollment projections	March-May
2. Prepare draft EFMP update	March-May
3. Present draft Superintendent's Recommended EFMP to the BOE	June
4. BOE Public Hearing on the draft Superintendent's Recommended EFMP and Capital Budget	June
5. BOE adopts final EFMP and Capital Budget	June

FCPS submits capital project funding requests (included in the approved EFMP) to state and county agencies in October and November (see [Appendix A](#)). Individual county and state agencies maintain procedures for evaluating the Board-approved capital project funding requests (See [Appendix D](#) and [Appendix E](#)).

Close cooperation among state, county and FCPS officials is essential to ensure that FCPS successfully updates and executes the EFMP. Public engagement in the planning process is also key.

## EDUCATIONAL FACILITY PLANNING – INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONTEXT

This EFMP is guided by the goals established in other planning documents prepared by the BOE, Frederick County Government, and the state. While not all these planning documents focus on educational facilities, their goals depend in part on meeting school facility needs. Some of these plans include:

*FCPS Strategic Plan:* The BOE began work on the Strategic Plan in Spring 2014. Aspirational goals were adopted in December 2014 along with correlating priorities. In November 2019, FCPS published the most recent Master Plan Annual Update that provided measurable progress updates on the BOE's goals.

*Frederick County Comprehensive Maintenance Plan:* Approved annually by the BOE, this plan establishes a system-wide evaluation of facility conditions and a maintenance management system to increase the life expectancy of building systems.

*Livable Frederick Master Plan:* The County adopted a new comprehensive plan, Livable Frederick Master Plan (LFMP), in September 2019. The LFMP is a broad, strategic plan that provides a vision for Frederick County's future and goes beyond the traditional focus on land use and development. The LFMP is organized around four themes: Our Community, Our Health, Our Economy, and Our Environment. The comprehensive plan and zoning maps adopted in 2012 remain in effect while County staff prepare local area plans in accordance with the vision of the LFMP. Additional details about the LFMP are outlined in [Chapter II](#) and excerpts from the LFMP and the two existing maps can be found in [Appendix F](#).

*Frederick County Capital Improvements Program:* This six-year program incorporates capital projects requested by the BOE and included in the County Executive's Recommended Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which can be found in [Appendix B](#). The CIP is then approved by the County Council. It also includes projects requested by other county agencies and departments. It establishes the funding levels and sources as well as schedules for capital improvement projects. All FCPS capital projects must conform to the requirements of this program.

*Maryland “Smart and Sustainable Growth Act” (2009) and “Sustainable Communities Act” (2010):* These state bills and other related legislation directed growth to areas identified as consistent with local comprehensive plans. Tax credits were directed towards rehabilitation of existing communities and a sustainable growth commission was created.

*A Better Maryland Plan:* The Maryland Department of Planning completed work on this plan in 2019. This Plan provides a framework for supporting the economy and environmental stewardship and advocates collaboration among state and local governments. The Plan includes the 12 Planning Visions initially adopted in 2009. Some of the plan's objectives include improving collaboration and coordination among state agencies and improving the delivery of programs and services to local jurisdictions.

The EFMP is also guided by two other foundational documents that govern the administration of FCPS. These are the BOE Policy and Regulations. These documents cover a wide range of specific instructional and program objectives related to such topics as organizational patterns, staffing ratios, transportation, and redistricting guidelines (see [Appendices N-R](#)).

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