



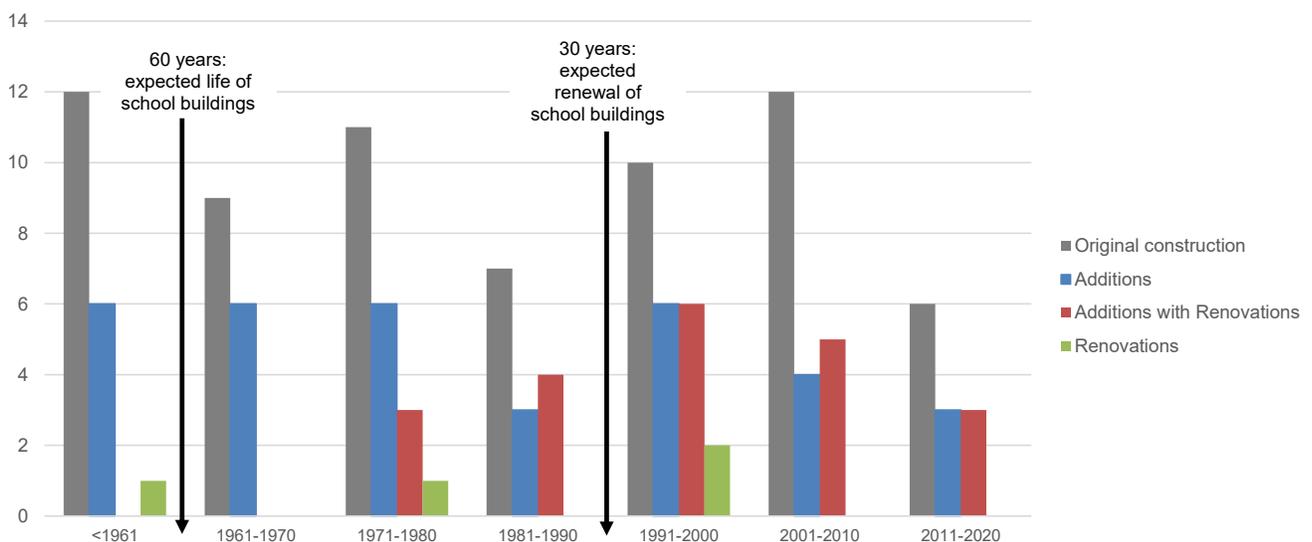
## 3. Inventory of School Facilities

### INTRODUCTION

As of May 2021, FCPS operates and maintains 67 school buildings, or a total of approximately 6.5 million square feet occupying almost 1,500 acres. In order to keep pace with evolving educational programs, changing enrollments and aging building systems, FCPS pursues new construction and devotes increasing resources to maintaining and renovating existing buildings.

Figure 3A shows the distribution of original building construction and improvements completed over time. At FCPS, we generally plan for major renovations to our school buildings about every 30 years and to replace the building at approximately 60 years of age. However, a feasibility study of a building may indicate a need for different timing of major improvements. Available funding may also impact the timeline. Of the 12 FCPS schools originally constructed more than 60 years ago, nine have had only minor renovations or systemic projects. The remaining three buildings more than 60 years old had major renovations more than 30 years ago. There are 27 buildings between 30 and 60 years old, 24 of which have had only minor renovations or systemic projects. Because of the delay in meeting renovation and replacement needs, FCPS has placed a priority on renovations and replacements over the next 10 years. See [Appendix BB](#) for a full historical timeline of capital building projects.

**Figure 3A: FCPS Buildings and Improvements Over Time**



Note: Some school buildings may be represented in several bars on this chart, including original construction and later additions and/or renovations.

## STATE OF MARYLAND ENROLLMENT CAPACITY

In addition to tending to the physical condition of buildings, FCPS must provide capacity based on student enrollment. The official enrollment capacity of a school, called State Rated Capacity (SRC), is defined in the Maryland Public School Construction Program's "Administrative Procedures Guide" (APG) and approved by the MDP based on the number of various types of classrooms for the elementary, middle, and high school levels (see sections below for details). The SRC is defined as "the number of students that the IAC or its designee determines that an individual school has the physical capacity to enroll and can be reasonably accommodated in a facility." Portable classrooms are not included in the calculation of SRC. The SRC is intended to be used to determine utilization and is not intended to be used to determine class sizes. Whenever an addition is completed or a school renovated or use of an existing school changes due to programmatic changes, FCPS recalculates the SRC. The new SRC is submitted to the MDP for approval. See [Chapter 4](#) for more information on evaluation of SRC.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION CAPACITY POLICY

While the State dictates the procedure for calculating the enrollment capacity of school buildings, BOE Policy 202.2 governs the desired capacities of Frederick County school buildings:

*The Board will use prototype designs whenever possible. Schools will be constructed to maximum approximate capacities:*

- *Elementary schools - 700 students*
- *Middle schools - 900 students*
- *High schools - 1600 students*

*All other schools will be constructed to accommodate the number of students determined by the Board to be appropriate to the school's function. The Board of Education may authorize exceptions to the capacity figures shown above.*

With the replacement of Waverley ES, the BOE authorized an exception to the maximum elementary school size to accommodate expected enrollments on the west side of Frederick City given that no other land is available for construction of a school in this part of the County.

## INVENTORY OF FACILITIES AND UTILIZATION

This EFMP uses a range of SRC percentages to evaluate utilization of schools. Corresponding colors are used throughout the plan to indicate utilization according to these ranges, as shown in Table 3A.

**Table 3A: FCPS Percent of SRC Categorization**

Percent of SRC	Description	ES	MS	HS
>120%	Significantly overcrowded; no additional residential development may be approved within attendance area per the County and municipal APFO, school construction projects to address significant overcrowding are a priority in the EFMP			
100-119%	Overcrowded; additional residential development may be prohibited or subject to school construction fees depending on APFO jurisdiction, school construction projects to address overcrowding included in 10-year EFMP if funding available			
90-99%	Fully utilized; FCPS closely monitors enrollment trends to determine if enrollment growth leads to long term capacity issues			
75-89%	Moderately underutilized; opportunities may exist to expand the attendance area or add educational programs; FCPS monitors enrollment trends			
<75%	Underutilized; opportunities may exist to change the attendance area or add new educational programs; FCPS monitors enrollment trends			

Where enrollment and school programming needs exceed the capacity of the building, FCPS uses portable buildings to temporarily supplement space within the building. Some portable buildings are used as full-time classrooms while others provide student support space so that space within the buildings can be maximized for traditional classroom usage. See [Appendix K](#) for the inventory of portable buildings.

## Elementary Schools

For the 2021-22 school year, there will be 42 primary and elementary schools (including the Monocacy Valley Montessori, Carroll Creek Montessori and Frederick Classical charter schools). The SRC for these schools varies from 114 to 735 students. FCPS provides a full day of elementary education to students from kindergarten through grade 5, and provides full-day or half-day Pre-kindergarten (pre-K) programs at select schools as described in the space programming section below. The Thurmont and Middletown communities have paired schools with separate administrations consisting of a primary school (pre-K through grade 2) and an elementary school (grades 3-5). New Midway/Woodsboro ES is one elementary school housed in two buildings. See [Appendix L](#) for a list of school facilities and grades served.

In addition to “core” facility space (administrative offices, health suite, media center, gymnasium/cafeteria), each school also has spaces for art, music and student support spaces. Schools may also have space devoted to regional special programs, which are described more in the sections that follow. Student support spaces are not included in the SRC calculation for elementary schools. The formula for calculating the SRC of an elementary school is the total of the following:

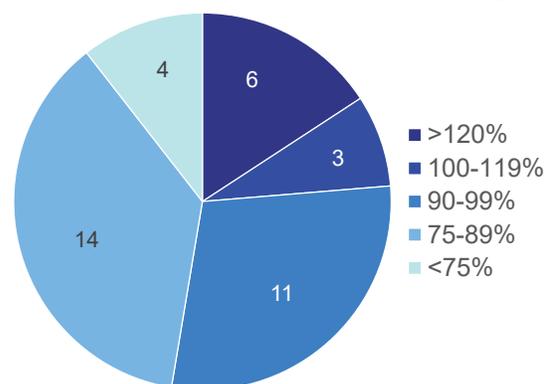
<i>Pre-kindergarten</i>	<i>20 x number of classrooms</i>
<i>Kindergarten</i>	<i>22 x number of classrooms</i>
<i>Grades 1-5</i>	<i>23 x number of classrooms</i>
<i>Special Education</i>	<i>10 x number of classrooms</i>

The system-wide elementary school SRC for the 2021-22 school year will be 20,404, which is an increase from the previous year’s system-wide capacity of 19,699. A new school, Blue Heron ES, will open in the fall of 2021 with a capacity of 548 students (the design accommodates 725 students but due to the placement of the Pyramid special education program the state rated capacity is reduced). Likewise, the SRC of Spring Ridge ES will increase with the relocation of the Pyramid program from this school to Blue Heron ES. The system-wide percent of SRC at the elementary level for 2021-22 is projected to be 99%, indicating that FCPS has not reached the plan’s goal of 90% capacity system-wide at the elementary level. See [Chapter 7](#) for projected percent SRC over time based on various funding scenarios.

Most elementary schools were below 100% of SRC as of September 30, 2020, as shown in Figure 3B. Nine elementary schools were over 100% of SRC, of which six schools were more than 120% of SRC. The opening of Blue Heron ES, along with the implementation of the second phase of the LOU redistricting decision, will reduce the number of schools over capacity.

However, enrollments in general were lower in 2020 due in large part to the COVID-19 pandemic. FCPS staff are monitoring the rate and location of residential development along with students who have withdrawn for home instruction and private schools to determine the continued impact on enrollments as the pandemic conditions improve (See [Chapter 5](#) for additional analysis of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic).

**Figure 3B: Number of Elementary Schools\* by SRC Range (September 30, 2020)**



\*Excludes charter schools because capacity is determined by contract.

## Middle Schools

Middle school (grades 6, 7, and 8) is designed for students in transition between childhood and adolescence. Middle school programs seek to expand course offerings by providing specialized facilities for fine arts, technology education, science, and physical education. FCPS operates 16 middle schools including Monocacy Valley Montessori, Carroll Creek Montessori and the Frederick Classical charter schools. These schools vary in size from an SRC of 732 to 1,105 with the exception of the charter schools which may have capacities as low as 90.

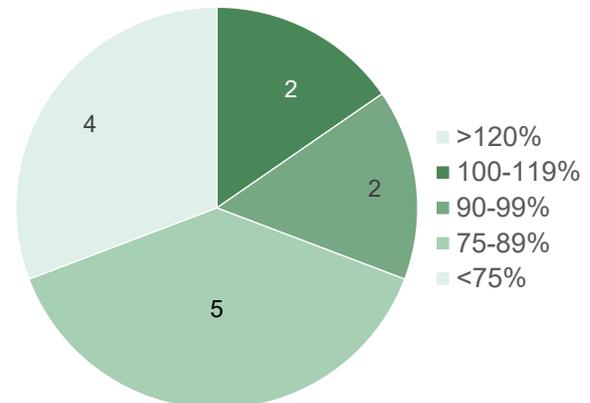
Each middle school attendance area generally has two to three elementary schools feeding to it. Several middle schools serve portions of five elementary schools. Three middle schools are located on the same campus as high schools which permits some shared use of facilities. The formula for calculating the SRC at the middle school level assumes 25 students per teaching station including specials such as music and art and uses a factor of 85% to account for teacher planning time:

<i>Typical classrooms</i>	$0.85 \times 25 \times \text{number of classrooms}$
<i>Gym</i>	$0.85 \times 25 \times \text{number of teaching stations}$
<i>Special education</i>	$10 \times \text{number of classrooms}$

The SRC for middle schools varies from 732 at New Market MS to 1,105 at Walkersville MS. For the 2020-21 school year, the system-wide middle school SRC totaled 12,298 seats. With the opening of the Oakdale MS addition in fall 2021, the system-wide middle school SRC will be 12,598. The system-wide projected SRC percentage at the middle school level will be 83%. This indicates that FCPS is operating within the plan’s goal of 90% SRC system-wide for the middle school level.

Although system-wide enrollments are acceptable, the capacity at individual schools varies as shown in Figure 3C. Most middle schools have capacity available. However, Monocacy MS and Oakdale MS have been operating over capacity. The opening of the Oakdale MS addition will address overcrowding there.

**Figure 3C: Number of Middle Schools\* by SRC Range (September 30, 2020)**



\*Excludes charter schools because capacity is determined by contract.

## High Schools

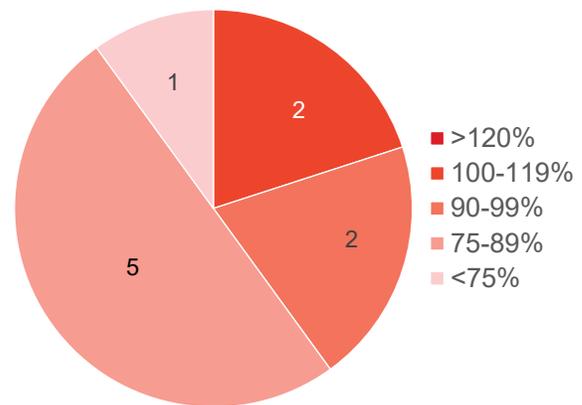
FCPS has 10 high schools serving students in grades 9-12. High schools encourage students to grow personally and academically by providing a wider range of course offerings than middle schools. FCPS high school facilities are built to accommodate a wide-ranging curriculum. High schools also provide facilities that are often unique and heavily used by the larger

community. High school buildings contain auditoriums, multiple gymnasiums, stadiums and other athletic facilities. FCPS encourages use of these facilities by community groups when they are not needed for the school program. High schools in Frederick County have attendance areas that incorporate one or two middle school attendance areas. The formula for calculating the SRC at the high school level assumes 25 students per teaching station and uses a factor of 85% to account for teacher planning time:

<i>Typical classrooms</i>	$0.85 \times 25 \times \text{number of classrooms}$
<i>Gym</i>	$0.85 \times 25 \times \text{number of teaching stations}$
<i>Special education</i>	$10 \times \text{number of classrooms}$
<i>Career Tech</i>	$0.85 \times 20 \times \text{number of classrooms}$

The SRC at high schools varies from 886 at Brunswick High School (HS) to 2001 at Governor Thomas Johnson HS. The system-wide high school SRC is 14,629 seats and will not change for the 2021-22 school year. The system-wide projected percent of SRC at the high school level for 2021-22 is 96%, with three schools operating over 100% of SRC, including Walkersville HS at 122%. FCPS is operating above the plan's goal of 90% SRC system-wide at the high school level. The percent capacity as of September 30, 2020 is shown in Figure 3D.

**Figure 3D: Number of High Schools by SRC Range (September 30, 2020)**



## Charter Schools

FCPS has approved three public charter schools. Any student in the county may apply to enroll, with new students selected via lottery when interest exceeds program capacity. Students attending these schools are FCPS students taught by FCPS teachers. However, each Charter has its own governing council that establishes the curriculum and oversees the school's budget. The capacity of each school is determined by a contract.

Carroll Creek Montessori School is located in leased space on Corporate Court in the Ballenger Creek area. The school is projected to have an enrollment of 294 students in grades K through 8 in the 2021-22 school year. This school offers an instructional program centered on the Montessori method with emphasis on the acquisition of Spanish language.

Frederick Classical Charter School is located in leased space on Spires Way in Frederick City. The school offers a curriculum that emphasizes traditional content taught using research-based curricula to grades K through 8. The school is projected to have an enrollment of 372 students in the 2021-22 school year.

Monocacy Valley Montessori School is located in Frederick City in leased space that was formerly a church. This school offers an instructional program centered on the Montessori Method for grades pre-K through 8. The school is projected to have an enrollment of 294 students in the 2021-22 school year.

## Other Frederick County Public School Facilities

Heather Ridge School is a 31,553 square foot alternative middle/high school educational facility for students who require a highly structured setting. The school offers appropriate curriculum in the context of individualized behavior-management programs, family counseling, and other services. Additional information regarding this school can be found in [Appendix S](#). Enrollment in September 2020 was 44 students. However, this enrollment is significantly less than in previous years due to virtual learning for more than half the 2020-21 school year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rock Creek is currently located in a 55,214 square foot facility on a shared campus with Waverley ES near the western end of Frederick City. A 79,000 square foot replacement facility is under construction on a shared campus with Walkersville MS, and will open for the 2021 summer program. Rock Creek provides individualized special education programs for students from 3-21 years of age. An appropriate curriculum is offered in self-contained classrooms, as well as related services in such areas as adaptive physical education, physical therapy, swimming, pre-vocational training and occupational therapy. Additional information regarding this program can be found in [Appendix T](#). Enrollment in September 2020 was 70 students.

Career and Technology Center (CTC) is an 86,681 square foot facility located on the Frederick Community College campus. Students in grades 10-12 may enroll. At the CTC, introductory training is offered in various professions such as criminal justice, computer-aided design, bio-medical technology, culinary arts, cosmetology, tv/multimedia production and computer networking. Some courses provide certifications or college credit through agreements with Frederick Community College. Students attending CTC remain enrolled at their home school and attend CTC for half a day. Additional information regarding this program can be found in [Appendix U](#).

Earth and Space Science Lab (ESSL) is a 10,771 square foot facility on the Lincoln ES campus. This facility includes two classrooms, a planetarium, tanks housing live organisms, and a variety of resources for hands on instruction in meteorology, astronomy, oceanography, and geology for all students in grades 1-5.

Lincoln “A” building is a 20,334 square foot building located on Madison Street in the city of Frederick housing the SUCCESS program and Child Find. The SUCCESS program is a transition education program for students ages 18-21 who have an IEP and are pursuing a Maryland School Certificate of Completion. Child Find provides a continuum of special education and related services to children ages 3-5 with disabilities. The Boys and Girls Club of Frederick County leases a portion of the building and occupies the building when school is not in session.

## Administrative Facilities

Administrative facilities are housed in several locations. The FCPS central office is located at 191 South East Street in downtown Frederick City. Technology support services, maintenance/operations, transportation, bus storage, a warehouse and vehicle maintenance facilities are located at a two-building complex on Hayward Road and Thomas Johnson Drive, on the north side of Frederick City. FCPS also maintains an office for Food and Nutrition Services and a Staff Development Center; both on Frederick Street in Walkersville.

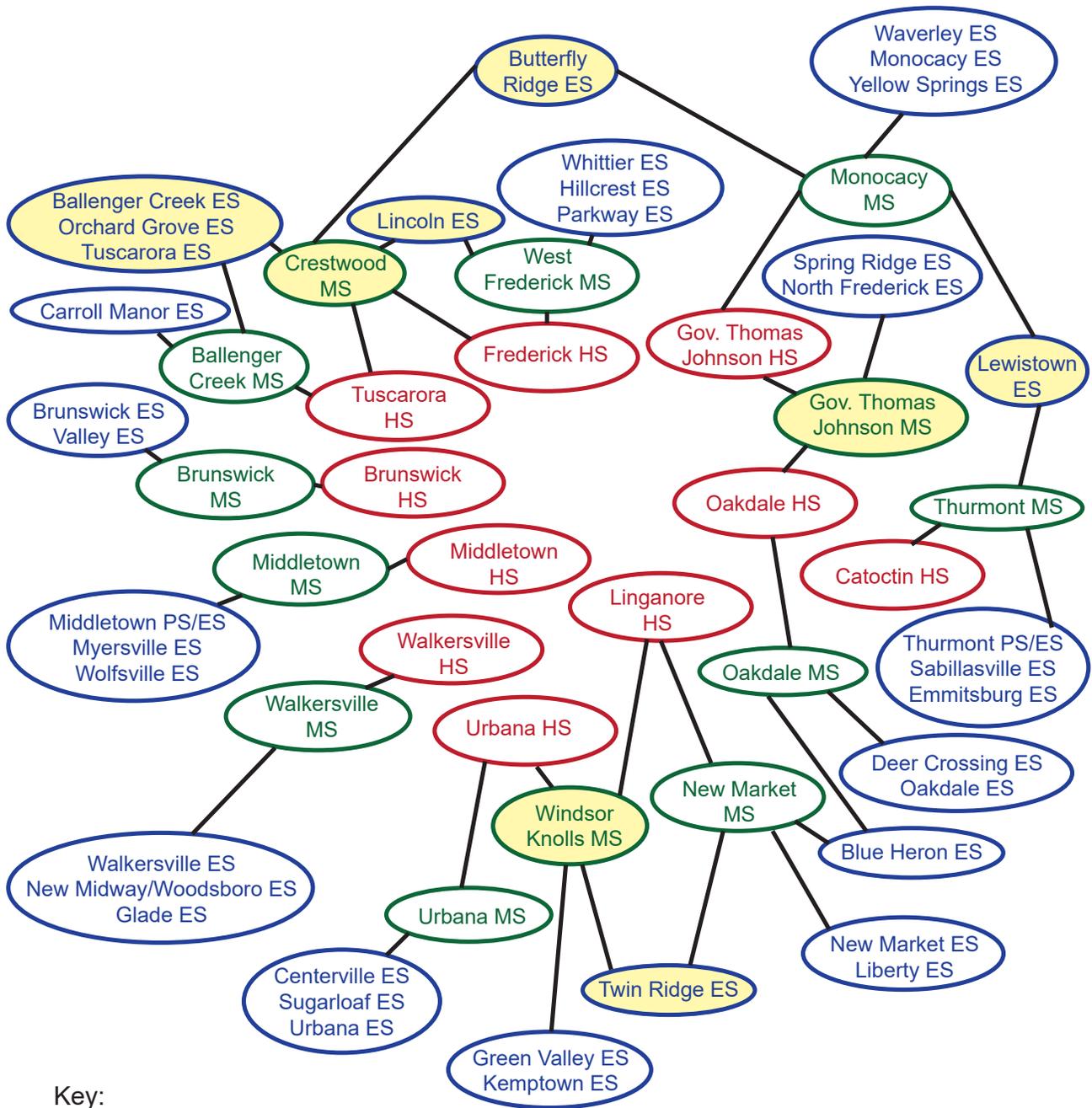
FCPS completed a feasibility study in September 2017 evaluating the Transportation Department’s facilities and future needs. The study recommended replacement of the existing facility and eventual construction of a satellite facility totaling 48,500 square feet as well as a need for additional bus parking space totaling 10.6 acres.

## Feeder Patterns

FCPS is organized into 10 feeder patterns around each high school as shown in [Figure 3E](#) . In general, two to four elementary schools (shown in blue) feed to each middle school (shown in green) and one to two middle schools feed to each high school (shown in red). A map depicting the relationships between elementary and high school attendance areas can be found in [Appendix AA](#).

Redistricting occurs when attendance boundaries are established for a newly constructed school or to balance enrollments between adjoining schools. While allowable under the BOE’s redistricting policy, FCPS has tried to reduce the number of split feeders where one elementary fed to two middle schools or one middle school fed to two high schools; however, sometimes split feeders are necessary to balance student populations.

Figure 3E: 2021-2022 Feeder Patterns



Key:  
 Elementary and Primary Schools  
 Middle Schools  
 High Schools  
 Split Feeders

## SPACE PROGRAMMING

In addition to growth in enrollments generally, schools must continue to respond to changes in instructional programs offered by FCPS. These changes in instruction are the result of state requirements or local initiatives. The following sections outline how FCPS adapts space programming to meet the evolving needs of students.

### Pre-Kindergarten Program:

FCPS' pre-kindergarten (pre-K) program serves children ages three and four. Pre-K enrollment is prioritized based on eligibility for free or reduced-price meals or factors that increase a child's risk of not being successful in school. For the 2021-22 school year, Pre-K or special education pre-K programs are planned at 26 elementary schools (including charter schools). FCPS will offer a variety of programs:

- 10 sessions of half-day Pre-K
- 33 sessions of full-day Pre-K
- 37 sessions of half-day inclusive special education Pre-K

Grant funding from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to be awarded in June 2021 may allow for additional Pre-K sessions. Total enrollment in the Pre-K program has increased significantly since the program began in 2005, from 759 students to 1,402 students in September 2019 (September 2020 enrollment decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic). It is anticipated that there will be more than 1,600 pre-K students in September 2021. FCPS must evaluate the need for pre-K services when preparing the educational specifications for new schools and considering future capacity needs.

### Special Education:

Special Education has evolved overtime. Today, special education students attend either their neighborhood school or a specialized facility such as Rock Creek. To meet the changing special educational needs, FCPS offers a variety of programs ranging from occasional assistance to full time intensive programs, as described in [Appendix T](#). Schools have adapted to provide appropriate spaces to serve children with various physical, emotional and educational abilities. This reduces capacity in schools for traditional classrooms.

### Media Centers and STEM Education:

The role of media centers has adapted from a focus on printed books and magazines to include a variety of digital resources. Media centers help classroom learning and promote literacy, independent learning, and the responsible use of information and information technology. With an increasing emphasis on integration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in the FCPS curriculum, media centers have often provided a home for STEM labs or maker spaces to provide specialized equipment that all classes can use as needed.

### Student Support Spaces:

FCPS provides a variety of spaces to support students outside of traditional classroom learning. Collaboration spaces provide opportunities for small groups of students to work independently. Intervention teachers are available to provide supplemental instruction to students struggling with reading or math. Guidance counselors, psychologists, social workers, and behavioral specialists address emotional and behavioral needs. Speech and language pathologists and occupational and physical therapists assist students with identified needs. Space is available for pull-out or full time English Learners. Community Liaisons help parents support the learning of their children. In addition to direct assistance, students are also given opportunities to support their own mental health by using calming rooms in lieu of acting out when stressful situations occur.

In general, FCPS provides more space for support services in the prototype building designs than the IAC minimum Gross Area Baselines. For example, depending on the needs of the school community an elementary school may devote up to 5,000 square feet to support services, even with each space being used for multiple purposes. In the design of new facilities, FCPS strives to provide flexibility in the use of the facility by collocating multiple support services in classroom sized spaces.

## Community Usage of School Facilities

Community use of FCPS facilities is part of the culture in Frederick County, supported by BOE policy. Below are some of the major organizations and programs using FCPS facilities:

- **Recreation:** There are currently 12 schools with Community Recreation Centers using gym and field space and an additional six schools are scheduled for outdoor parks and recreation programming. Joint use agreements are considered each time FCPS begins the design process for a school. As an example, the replacement building for Rock Creek will host a County adaptive recreation program when it opens in the summer of 2021.
- **Judy Centers:** The goal of Judy Centers is to improve school success through early intervention and comprehensive services to families with children from birth to Kindergarten. Lincoln ES and Waverley ES house Judy Centers.
- **School Based Health Clinic:** Hillcrest ES hosts a school based health clinic, whose purpose is to offer medical care and treatment to all students enrolled in the school, and particularly those without health insurance.
- **Head Start:** Hillcrest ES and Liberty ES have Head Start programs. Head Start is a Federal program that promotes the school readiness of children from birth to age five from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development.
- **Childcare:** To meet the needs of students and families before and after the school day, three local childcare providers offer care at 30 elementary schools.

In addition to the partnerships above, non-profit organizations may apply to use FCPS indoor and outdoor facilities for minimal fees used to cover staff time for supervision and maintenance of the facilities. During the 2018-19 school year (the last full school year prior to suspension of usage due to the COVID-19 pandemic), a total of 336 groups reserved space at an FCPS location. Table 3B lists some usage statistics.

**Table 3B: Community Use of Facilities Statistics, 2018-2019 School Year**

	Indoor Space	Outdoor Space	Total
Number of locations	64	50	64
Number of event dates booked	17,458	11,182	28,640
Number of event hours booked	56,628	50,405.5	107,033.5