

2022 Frederick County Public Schools Educational Facilities Master Plan Board of Education Approved

Executive Summary

OUR MISSION

Public education is at the heart of our community. It shapes who we are. In Frederick County, our promise is to empower our young people no matter who they are, no matter their backgrounds or circumstances. We want them to be prepared to succeed in college and careers. Therefore, our mission 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.

Our schools belong to all of us and are used by the entire community. Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) 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 (EFMP). The EFMP is our blueprint to ensure that our schools meet our high standards for excellence. We update it every year to keep it current and to keep our focus squarely on the conditions of our buildings.

FCPS uses the EFMP regularly; it guides our thinking about our facilities. Among other things, it includes the enrollment projections for each of our 73 schools (including charter and special schools), coordinates facility needs with the county and municipal plans for residential growth, establishes our facility and funding priorities with state and local officials, and helps us plan our construction and modernization projects and keep them running smoothly and on schedule. However, the EFMP must also be accessible and useful to our many partners: elected officials, other state and local agencies, parents and the taxpayers of Frederick County. The EFMP includes information that is helpful to all of us—long-range enrollment projections and trends, school-by-school capacity data, descriptions of FCPS educational programs, Board of Education policies and regulations regarding school use, attendance boundaries, construction and maintenance, and other up-to-date information about all our county schools.

The 2022 EFMP is formatted with digital use in mind. Links throughout the document allow the reader to click between chapters or visit other reference documents and webpages. Many of the maps are now interactive maps online where users can search locations of interest and view layers of information. A [story map](#) of this executive summary is highlighted on page 4.

OUR PROCESS

In early June, FCPS staff presents the Superintendent's draft recommended EFMP to the Board of Education and also obtains a finding of consistency with the County Comprehensive Plan. The Board of Education (BOE) holds a public hearing during their regular BOE meeting in late June and adopts a final plan. The adopted EFMP is then the basis for capital funding requests made to the state and county governments in October.

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 demonstrating efficient stewardship of taxpayer dollars. FCPS seeks to maximize the lifespan of our facilities and keep pace with our students' changing educational requirements. The EFMP 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.

KEY ELEMENTS

Frederick County and our state and world as a whole are experiencing a moment of great change. More than ever, FCPS must rise to the challenge to continue to serve our students and prepare them for the future. In this 2022 update, FCPS addresses the following topics:

Enrollment Growth

Frederick County has been experiencing significant residential growth in several areas including Frederick City, the I-70 and I-270 corridors and Brunswick. The residential housing market has remained robust during the last year, with many builders exceeding their expectations on new dwelling unit construction. A total of 2,800 housing permits were issued in 2021 in Frederick County and the municipalities, reaching a new high for housing construction. FCPS is closely monitoring areas of growth and continues to evaluate where and when the next new capacity project will be required. In particular, the pace and pattern of housing growth is accelerating on the north and east side of Frederick City. Three new elementary school projects have been included in this EFMP to address capacity issues. [Chapter 5](#) highlights the enrollment projections and [Chapter 7](#) outlines the 10-year plan.

Modernization of older facilities

As discussed in [Chapter 3](#), FCPS has many older facilities that have been well-maintained but are nearing or exceeding their useful life and need renewal. The top priority projects in the 10-year plan are replacement schools for buildings that have reached the end of their useful life. FCPS is currently conducting feasibility studies for four schools to determine whether to renovate (with or without additions) or replace them. In addition, limited renovations extending the life of existing buildings are also included in the EFMP. Thurmont ES, Monocacy ES, Ballenger Creek ES, Spring Ridge ES and Twin Ridge ES are schools that will receive limited renovations over the next four years. FCPS will also consider the consolidation of small older schools to better align our facilities with educational needs.

Expansion of Prekindergarten program

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act (Act), established in February 2021, broadened the availability of high-quality prekindergarten and school readiness services. The provisions of this Act will be implemented beginning in the 2022-23 school year, with full implementation 2025-26. FCPS will expand their prekindergarten program from 64 classrooms to 80 in the 2022-23 school year. To fully meet the need of the expanded prekindergarten program, FCPS will utilize available classroom space, high school-based classrooms, relocatable classrooms and attendance boundary adjustments where appropriate.

Completion of new projects improves learning for students

The replacement of Waverley ES will open in the fall of 2022 with a state rated capacity of 1019. This new larger elementary school will not only replace a 53-year-old building but will also add 664 elementary seats and relieve overcrowding at Waverley, Hillcrest, Butterfly Ridge and Whittier elementary schools. An addition at Crestwood Middle School that will open in fall of 2024 adds capacity to the Frederick City area middle schools. See [Chapters 3](#) and [7](#) for additional details.

New state funding opportunities

The Built to Learn Act passed in March 2020 and provides up to \$2.2 billion in additional funding for school construction projects throughout the state. FCPS will receive approximately \$112 million in funding over several years and will use this funding to accelerate the replacement of Green Valley and Valley elementary school projects. Built to Learn funding will also be used to pay back local forward funding for Waverley, Blue Heron and Brunswick elementary school projects. [Chapter 1](#) provides more information on state and local funding.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2022 ANNUAL UPDATE

The 10-year capital improvement plan includes the following:

- 3 new schools
- 4 replacement schools with additions
- 1 addition
- 4 modernizations
- 5 limited renovations

See the EFMP [story map](#) for more details on the proposed projects.

FAST FACTS

- Total enrollment of over 45,000 students
- Approximately 6.7 million square feet and 1,500 acres in our school portfolio
- FCPS operates 68 school buildings
- 40 school buildings are currently older than 30 years, with 14 older than 60 years
- 47 schools are projected to be operating within the state rated capacity in fall 2021
- 8 new or replacement schools built in the last 10 years
- 4 schools currently in design or under construction

EFMP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY STORY MAP

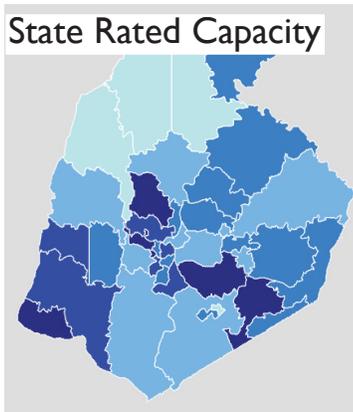
The interactive story map online features quick facts about FCPS, state rated capacities over time, a tour of growth areas in Frederick County, prekindergarten program locations and the projects that FCPS is proposing in the 10-year capital plan. [Visit the story map.](#)

Quick Facts

- 45,000+ Enrolled students
- ~6.7 million square feet/1,500 acres School properties
- 68 School buildings
- 47 schools Operating within state-rated capacity (as of Fall 2021)
- 8 new or replacement schools Planned for the next 10 years
- 4 schools Currently in design or under construction

Highlights of proposed 10-year Capital Plan

- 3 new schools
- 4 replacement schools with additions
- 1 addition
- 4 modernizations
- 5 limited renovations



Approved residential developments

Status

- Zoning approval only
- Active
- Inactive (planned)
- Age-restricted

Proposed residential developments

Zoning type

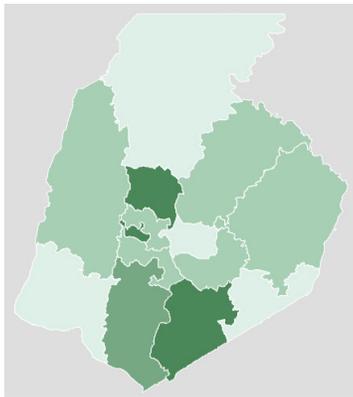
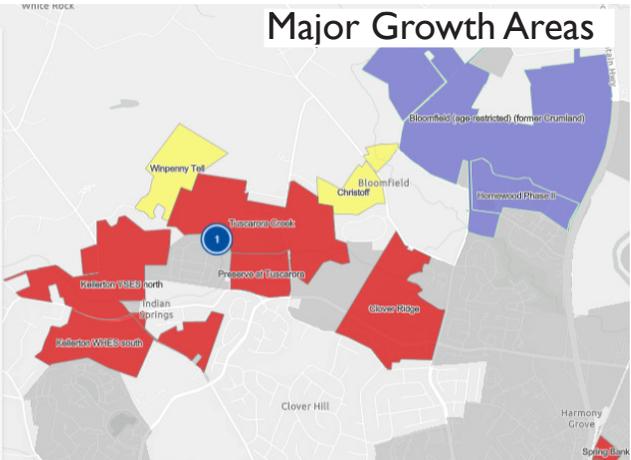
- Residential

North Frederick City

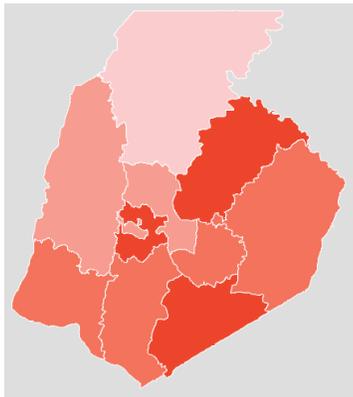
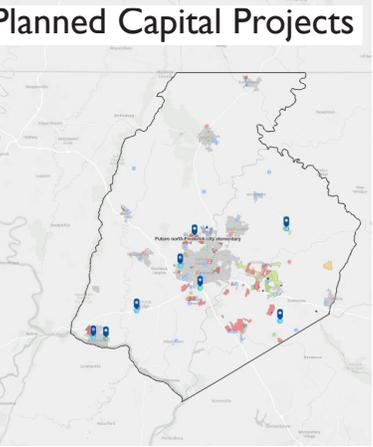
959 Remaining housing units

Potentially generating:

488 total students



- ### Planned Capital Projects
- Waverly ES Replacement
Opening 2022-2023 school year
 - Brunswick ES Replacement
Opening 2023-2024 school year
 - Crestwood MS Addition
Opening 2024-2025 school year
 - Green Valley ES Replacement
Opening 2024-2025 school year
 - Valley ES Replacement
Opening 2024-2025 school year
 - Liberty ES Replacement
Opening 2024-2025 school year
 - Future northern Frederick area ES
Opening 2024-2027 or 2027-2028 school year. Site dedicated by Frederick State Development
 - Future eastern Frederick area ES
The location of the building: opening 2025-2027 or 2027-2028 school year
 - Future eastern/southern Frederick area ES
Opening 2026-2028 school year. Location TBD
 - Future eastern Frederick County MS
Design and site location scheduled for late 2022 year plan.
 - Brunswick HS Replacement
End of 16 year plan



- Yellow Springs ES Modernization
Feasibility study currently in progress
- Middlebrook Campus Modernization
Feasibility study in progress to determine scope and timeline.
- Thurmont ES Limited Renovation
Opening 2024-2025 school year
- Monocacy ES Limited Renovation
Opening 2024-2025 school year
- Spring Ridge ES Limited Renovation
Opening 2024-2025 school year
- Ballinger Creek ES Limited Renovation
Opening 2024-2025 school year
- Twin Ridge ES Limited Renovation
Opening 2024-2027 school year
- Walkersville MS Modernization
Opening 2024-2028 school year

