

Office of Chief Operating Officer

I am Larry Bowers, chief operating officer for Montgomery County Public Schools. The chief operating officer is responsible for all business and financial operations of the school system. I have responsibility for the oversight and integrated management of the work of approximately 4,300 employees in the Office of Human Resources and the departments of Association Relations; Facilities Management; Financial Services; Management, Budget, and Planning; Materials Management; Planning and Capital Programming; School Safety and Security; and Transportation, and the divisions of Construction, Food and Nutrition Services, Maintenance, and School Plant Operations—as well as other critical functions of the school system. In collaboration with the deputy superintendents, I provide organizational leadership to ensure the implementation of the Board of Education's goals and academic priorities, the school system's strategic plan, *Our Call to Action: Pursuit of Excellence*, and the development of the master plan for the *Bridge to Excellence*. Additionally, I have responsibility for legal services and interscholastic sports.

My office develops the MCPS operating budget that for FY 2005 is slightly more than \$1.6 billion. We also are responsible for the capital improvements program which is \$955 million for the next six years and \$205 million for FY 2005.

MCPS school buses transport 95,000 students to and from school every day and travel 19 million miles per year, which is the equivalent of driving around the world more than three times each day.

The Department of Facilities Management maintains almost 20 million square feet of space in 221 facilities.

The Division of Food and Nutrition Services serves more than 10 million meals per year and produces much of this food in a central production facility.

The Department of Materials Management delivers approximately 5 million items per year to schools.

The Employee and Retiree Service Center produces more than 23,000 paychecks every two weeks and provides services to more than 7,000 retirees. There are more than 40,000 employees, retirees, and their dependents who receive health benefits from MCPS.

The core values of the Office of the Chief Operating Officer are:

Student Success—Our top priority is to have all tasks completed with the success and well being of students in mind.

Commitment—We are committed to maintaining high performance standards and meeting reasonable customer expectations by being flexible and creative in overcoming obstacles.

Teamwork—We collaborate within and across all MCPS units to plan and complete tasks.

Accountability—We maintain accountability by working collaboratively, respecting our customers and stakeholders, exercising professional integrity, and measuring and evaluating our performance.

Effectiveness and Efficiency—We use resources wisely to provide the highest-quality products, resources, and services.

As chief operating officer, I work with each of these offices, departments, and divisions to develop, monitor, and assess their goals and performance measures.

If you need support from my office, please call me or my executive assistant, Ms. Robin Confino, at 301-279-3626.