

WALTER JOHNSON CLUSTER

CLUSTER PLANNING ISSUES

The Walter Johnson Cluster has experienced considerable enrollment growth in the past eight years, primarily driven by the turnover of homes to younger families. New development in the cluster also has played a role, although by a significantly smaller amount than demographic changes in existing communities.

The cluster also will see substantial amounts of new housing associated with the following land-use plans: Rock Spring Master Plan, White Flint 2 Sector Plan, and Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Area Minor Master Plan. Currently, there are approximately 11,340 units in the development pipeline approved, but unbuilt, within the Walter Johnson Cluster. Of the 11,340 units, approximately 10,900 are multifamily and 440 are single family units.

Planning Study: A Site Selection Committee was held in spring 2018, to identify possible sites for a new elementary school in the Walter Johnson Cluster. The projected space deficits at the elementary school level in the cluster was not sufficient to recommend a new elementary school for the Walter Johnson Cluster at that time. In November 2018, the Board of Education adopted a capacity study for the elementary schools in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster. Given the space deficits in the Walter Johnson Cluster, in November 2018, the Board of Education expanded the capacity study to explore possible solutions that would include the elementary schools in both the Walter Johnson and Bethesda-Chevy Chase clusters. The Board of Education also included a joint site selection process for the two clusters conducted in summer 2019. The adopted FY 2023–2028 CIP included planning funds in the out-years for this new elementary school with a TBD completion date. An FY 2025 appropriation was requested, however, due to fiscal constraints, the County Council shifted planning expenditures to the out-years of the adopted FY 2025–2030 CIP. Due to the declining enrollment the recommendation is for a future elementary school boundary study.

Planning Issue: On March 28, 2023, the Board of Education approved the boundary study scope to create the service area for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School. The scope of the boundary study includes the following high schools: Bethesda Chevy-Chase, Montgomery Blair, Albert Einstein, Walter Johnson, John F. Kennedy, Northwood, Wheaton, and Walt Whitman. The scope also includes the following middle schools: Argyle, Eastern, A. Mario Loiederman, Newport Mill, North Bethesda, Parkland, Thomas W. Pyle, Odessa Shannon, Silver Creek, Silver Spring International, Sligo, Takoma Park, Tilden, and Westland. No elementary schools are included in the boundary study.

As part of the adopted FY 2025–2030 CIP, the completion date for the Northwood High School project was delayed one-year due to an extension

of the construction timeline. As a result of Northwood High School remaining at Charles W. Woodward High School, its holding facility, for one additional year, the completion date for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School is August 2027. On March 19, 2024, the Board of Education adopted a revised timeline for the boundary study. Information regarding this boundary study is available on the MCPS website at the following link: <https://sites.google.com/mcpsmd.net/boundarystudyoptions?usp=sharing/>

Due to the declining enrollment the recommendation is for a future elementary school boundary study.

SCHOOLS

Walter Johnson High School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

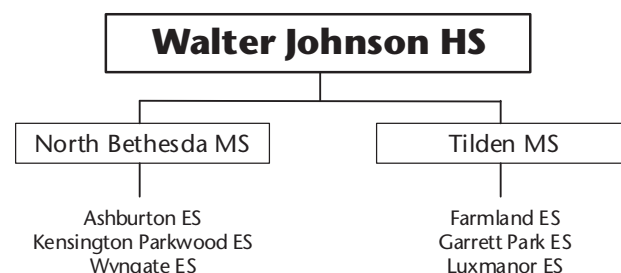
Charles W. Woodward High School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

Capital Project: To address the urgent space needs at Walter Johnson High School and the Downcounty Consortium high schools, an FY 2021 appropriation for construction was approved for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School. The Board of Education approved that Charles W. Woodward High School be used as a holding school for Northwood High School. An FY 2023 appropriation was requested for construction cost increases and the balance of construction funds. However, due to fiscal constraints, the County Council, in the adopted FY 2023–2028 CIP, delayed this project one year. The additional expenditures were approved, but the scheduled completion date for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School was August 2026. An FY 2024 appropriation was approved for construction cost increases. As part of the Board of Education’s approved FY 2025–2030 CIP, the construction schedule for the Northwood High School project was extended one year, with a completion date of August 2027.

Walter Johnson Cluster Articulation

2025–2026 School Year



See Appendix V for multicolored maps of the service areas.

WALTER JOHNSON CLUSTER

Since Charles W. Woodward High School is the holding facility for Northwood High School, the completion date for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School is August 2027. As part of the FY 2025–2030 CIP the Board of Education approved Phase III for this project that includes the construction of the auditorium.

North Bethesda Middle School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

Tilden Middle School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

Ashburton Elementary School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Study.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase/Walter Johnson Clusters Elementary School

Planning Study: See text under Cluster Planning Study.

Capital Project: Projections indicate that enrollment will exceed capacity for some of the elementary schools in these two clusters. An FY 2025 appropriation was requested, however, due to fiscal constraints, the County Council shifted planning expenditures to the out-years of the adopted FY 2025–2030 CIP. The recommendation is to reallocate these funds to other projects, as enrollment throughout the county is declining and a future boundary study will address localized overutilization.

Farmland Elementary School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Study.

Garrett Park Elementary School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Study.

Kensington-Parkwood Elementary School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Study.

Luxmanor Elementary School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Study.

Wyngate Elementary School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Study.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Charles W. Woodward HS	New School	Approved	August 2027

Approved—Project has an approved FY 2026 appropriation in the amended FY 2025–2030 CIP for planning or construction funds.

Recommended—Project has a recommended FY 2027 appropriation in the FY 2027–2032 CIP for planning or construction.

Programmed—Project has expenditures programmed in a future year of the CIP for planning and/or construction funds.

Proposed—Project has facility planning funds approved for a feasibility study.

WALTER JOHNSON CLUSTER

Projected Enrollment and Space Availability

Effects of the Superintendent's Recommended FY 2027 Capital Budget and the FY 2027–2032 CIP

Schools			Prelim.	Projections							
			25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	2035	2040
Walter Johnson HS		Program Capacity	2251	2251	2251	2251	2251	2251	2251	2251	2251
		Enrollment	3008	2981	3006	3025	3027	3055	3036	3050	3050
		Available Space	(757)	(730)	(755)	(774)	(776)	(804)	(785)	(799)	(799)
		Comments	See Text								
Charles W. Woodward HS		Program Capacity			2249	2249	2249	2249	2249	2249	2249
		Enrollment			0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Available Space			2249	2249	2249	2249	2249	2249	2249
		Comments	See Text		Opens						
North Bethesda MS		Program Capacity	1187	1187	1187	1187	1187	1187	1187	1187	1187
		Enrollment	1229	1244	1241	1231	1220	1182	1156	1175	1175
		Available Space	(42)	(57)	(54)	(44)	(33)	5	31	12	12
		Comments	See Text								
Tilden MS		Program Capacity	1251	1251	1251	1251	1251	1251	1251	1251	1251
		Enrollment	1110	1140	1149	1122	1119	1083	1059	1070	1070
		Available Space	141	111	102	129	132	168	192	181	181
		Comments	See Text								
Ashburton ES		Program Capacity	823	823	823	823	823	823	823		
		Enrollment	820	823	817	866	853	848	841		
		Available Space	3	0	6	(43)	(30)	(25)	(18)		
		Comments	See Text								
Farmland ES		Program Capacity	725	725	725	725	725	725	725		
		Enrollment	826	823	820	788	788	780	781		
		Available Space	(101)	(98)	(95)	(63)	(63)	(55)	(56)		
		Comments	See Text								
Garrett Park ES		Program Capacity	774	774	774	774	774	774	774		
		Enrollment	765	808	804	804	798	797	779		
		Available Space	9	(34)	(30)	(30)	(24)	(23)	(5)		
		Comments	See Text								
Kensington–Parkwood ES		Program Capacity	819	819	819	819	819	819	819		
		Enrollment	540	532	520	522	521	504	499		
		Available Space	279	287	299	297	298	315	320		
		Comments	See Text								
Luxmanor ES		Program Capacity	739	739	739	739	739	739	739		
		Enrollment	643	681	678	652	641	645	642		
		Available Space	96	58	61	87	98	94	97		
		Comments	See Text								
Wyngate ES		Program Capacity	801	801	801	801	801	801	801		
		Enrollment	631	625	619	603	595	595	582		
		Available Space	170	176	182	198	206	206	219		
		Comments	See Text								
Cluster Information		HS Utilization	134%	132%	134%	134%	134%	136%	135%	135%	135%
		HS Enrollment	3008	2981	3006	3025	3027	3055	3036	3050	3050
		MS Utilization	96%	98%	98%	97%	96%	93%	91%	92%	92%
		MS Enrollment	2339	2384	2390	2353	2339	2265	2215	2245	2245
		ES Utilization	90%	92%	91%	90%	90%	89%	88%		
		ES Enrollment	4225	4292	4258	4235	4196	4169	4124		

WALTER JOHNSON CLUSTER

Demographic Characteristics of Schools

Schools	2025-2026						2024-2025		
	Total Enrollment	Two or more races %	Black or Afr. Amer. %	Asian%	Hispanic %	White %	FARMS%*	ELD%**	Mobility Rate%***
Walter Johnson HS	3008	6.6%	16.5%	13.6%	18.9%	43.9%	19.8%	7.8%	8.0%
North Bethesda MS	1229	8.9%	12.4%	14.2%	19.1%	45.4%	15.9%	7.2%	7.0%
Tilden MS	1110	6.8%	16.5%	17.2%	20.2%	39.2%	24.1%	16.8%	12.6%
Ashburton ES	820	8.8%	20.7%	17.6%	17.6%	35.1%	21.5%	14.1%	20.1%
Farmland ES	826	6.7%	11.4%	28.2%	14.8%	38.4%	19.5%	27.5%	18.5%
Garrett Park ES	765	8.2%	15.6%	18.2%	20.1%	37.4%	24.9%	23.1%	18.6%
Kensington-Parkwood ES	540	8.0%	10.2%	8.9%	15.6%	57.4%	12.1%	11.0%	10.2%
Luxmanor ES	643	7.5%	16.8%	17.9%	28.9%	28.8%	27.5%	22.7%	16.2%
Wyngate ES	631	10.9%	4.6%	13.8%	13.9%	56.7%	3.4%	7.2%	5.5%
Elementary Cluster Total	4225	8.3%	13.6%	18.1%	18.4%	41.3%	19.1%	18.5%	13.1%
Elementary County Total	69752	6.0%	21.5%	12.9%	36.3%	23.1%	42.7%	26.3%	14.6%

*Percent of students approved for Free and Reduced-priced Meals Program (FARMS) during the 2024–2025 school year.

**Percent of English Language Development students (ELD) during the 2024–2025 school year. High School students are served in regional ELD centers.

***Mobility Rate is the number of entries plus withdrawals during the 2024–2025 school year compared to total enrollment.

Notes: Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaskan Native categories total less than 1% and were therefore excluded from the table.

Due to federal and state guidelines, demographic characteristics of schools of less than or equal to 5 students per category are reported as 0%.

Program Capacity Table

(School Year 2025–2026)

Special Education Services																																
Quad Cluster Based																County & Regional Based																
Other	ELC @10	LANG @12	LFI @10	SCB @6	AAC@7	AUT @6	BRIDGE @10	DHOH @7	SESES @10	EXTENSIONS @6	2e @13	PD @7	PEP@6	PEP @12	PEP @18	VISION (Elementary) @7																
			4			3					1												1									
						3					1																					
			3			2																										
			4																													
						3																										
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Facility Characteristics of Schools 2025–2026

Schools	Year Facility Opened	Year Reopened/ Revitalized/ Maj. Cap. Proj.	Total Square Footage	Site Size Acres	Adjacent Park	Relocatable Classrooms*	County Programs
Walter Johnson HS	1956	2009	365,138	30.86		19	
Charles W. Woodward HS			339,164	27.75			
North Bethesda MS	1955	1999	178,252	19.11			
Tilden MS	1967	2020	244,561	19.67			
Ashburton ES	1957	1993	91,178	8.3		8	
Farmland ES	1963	2011	89,988	4.75	Yes	4	
Garrett Park ES	1948	2012	96,348	4.38	Yes		
Kensington-Parkwood ES	1952	2006	102,382	9.86			
Luxmanor ES	1966	2020	99,376	6.49	Yes		
Wyngate ES	1952	1997	89,104	9.5			

*See Appendix H for relocatable use.

**Tilden MS is colocated with Rock Terrace School