

WATKINS MILL CLUSTER

CLUSTER PLANNING ISSUE

The 2016 adopted Montgomery Village Master Plan is located within the service areas of the Watkins Mill Cluster schools and identifies a potential future elementary school site. New residential units will be created as property redevelopment occurs. The former golf course property is likely to redevelop for residential use in the near term. The lifecycle of the plan is approximately 20–30 years. In addition, in April 2023, The Lakeforest Mall site was approved for rezoning to mixed use for up to 1,600 dwelling units and 1.2 million square feet of non-residential development.

Planning Issue: On March 19, 2024, the Board of Education approved the boundary study scope to determine the service area for the new Crown High School and the expansion of Damascus High School. The scope of the boundary study includes the following high schools: Winston Churchill, Clarksburg, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Richard Montgomery, Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley, Watkins Mill, and Thomas S. Wootton. The scope also includes the following middle schools: John T. Baker, Cabin John, Roberto W. Clemente, Forest Oak, Robert Frost, Gaithersburg, Herbert Hoover, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Kingsview, Lakelands Park, Montgomery Village, Neelsville, John Poole, Ridgeview Rocky Hill, Hallie Wells, and Julius West. No elementary schools are included in the boundary study.

As part of the adopted FY 2025–2030 CIP, the approved completion date for the new Crown High School is August 2027. Due to fiscal constraints, the County Council shifted the expenditures for Damascus High School Major Capital Project to the out-years of the adopted FY 2025–2030 CIP with a “to be determined” completion date. In the Recommended FY 2027–2032 CIP the proposed completion date for the Damascus HS replacement is August 2031. Information regarding this boundary study is available on the MCPS website at the following link: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/boundary-study

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

An FY 2020 appropriation was approved for planning to begin the architectural design for this project with a completion date of August 2025. As part of the FY 2021–2026 CIP, the County Council delayed the expenditures and completion date to August 2026. An FY 2023 appropriation was requested for construction cost increases and construction funds. Due to fiscal constraints, the County Council, in the adopted FY 2023–2028 CIP, delayed this project one year, but approved the additional expenditures. An FY 2024 appropriation was approved for construction funds. Due to the continued effects of Covid-19 pandemic on construction cost increases, the budget for this project was insufficient to complete the construction scope as originally intended. Therefore, to move forward with the construction and remain on schedule, the Board of Education approved, as part of the FY 2025–2030 CIP, a Phase II for this project which includes the construction of the auditorium. This new high school is scheduled to be completed and open in August 2027.

Watkins Mill High School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Issues

Montgomery Village Middle School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Issues

Whetstone Elementary School

Capital Project: As part of the adopted FY 2023–2028 CIP, this school was approved for a feasibility study for a major capital project. Based on the ranking with the new CIP prioritization criteria this school will be considered for a major capital project in a future CIP.

SCHOOLS

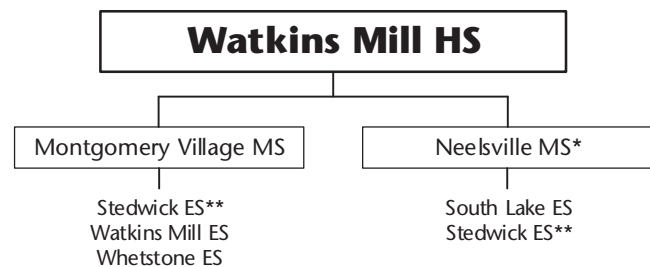
Crown High School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

Capital Project: The adopted CIP includes expenditures in the six-year period to open a new high school on the Crown Farm site to address overutilization in the mid-county region. Although an FY 2019 appropriation for planning was requested by the Board of Education for this new school, the County Council delayed the funds by one year.

Watkins Mill Cluster Articulation

2025–2026 School Year



* A portion of Clarksburg ES and William B. Gibbs, Jr ES also articulate to Neelsville MS and thereafter articulate to Seneca Valley HS.

** Stedwick ES split articulates to Montgomery Village MS and Neelsville MS and thereafter to Watkins Mill HS.

See Appendix V for multicolored maps of the service areas.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Crown 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.

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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
Watkins Mill HS		Program Capacity	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831
		Enrollment	1544	1519	1474	1464	1452	1462	1450	1475	1475
		Available Space	287	312	357	367	379	369	381	356	356
		Comments	See Text								
Crown HS		Program Capacity			2218	2218	2218	2218	2218	2218	2218
		Enrollment			0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Available Space			2218	2218	2218	2218	2218	2218	2218
		Comments	See Text		Opens						
Montgomery Village MS		Program Capacity	857	857	857	857	857	857	857	857	857
		Enrollment	755	726	723	735	728	704	687	700	700
		Available Space	102	131	134	122	129	153	170	157	157
		Comments	See Text								
Neelsville MS		Program Capacity	956	956	956	956	956	956	956	956	956
		Enrollment	759	756	750	751	748	722	705	750	750
		Available Space	197	200	206	205	208	234	251	206	206
		Comments	See Text								
South Lake ES	CSR	Program Capacity	768	768	768	768	768	768	768		
		Enrollment	680	667	643	663	637	633	637		
		Available Space	88	101	125	105	131	135	131		
		Comments									
Stedwick ES	CSR	Program Capacity	666	666	666	666	666	666	666		
		Enrollment	476	468	466	454	454	442	441		
		Available Space	190	198	200	212	212	224	225		
		Comments									
Watkins Mill ES	CSR	Program Capacity	722	722	722	722	722	722	722		
		Enrollment	733	754	751	748	736	732	722		
		Available Space	(11)	(32)	(29)	(26)	(14)	(10)	0		
		Comments									
Whetstone ES	CSR	Program Capacity	735	735	735	735	735	735	735		
		Enrollment	740	729	727	709	694	680	684		
		Available Space	(5)	6	8	26	41	55	51		
		Comments	See Text								
Cluster Information		HS Utilization	84%	83%	81%	80%	79%	80%	79%	81%	81%
		HS Enrollment	1544	1519	1474	1464	1452	1462	1450	1475	1475
		MS Utilization	84%	82%	81%	82%	81%	79%	77%	80%	80%
		MS Enrollment	1514	1482	1473	1486	1476	1426	1392	1450	1450
		ES Utilization	91%	91%	89%	89%	87%	86%	86%		
		ES Enrollment	2629	2618	2587	2574	2521	2487	2484		

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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%***
Watkins Mill HS	1544	2.5%	24.9%	8.7%	58.5%	5.1%	51.7%	32.7%	27.6%
Montgomery Village MS	755	2.3%	23.4%	4.6%	66.4%	3.2%	59.2%	39.9%	16.5%
Neelsville MS	759	4.6%	29.9%	13.7%	43.7%	7.8%	55.1%	26.4%	16.0%
South Lake ES	680	2.4%	17.8%	6.0%	72.1%	1.3%	66.1%	59.9%	21.4%
Stedwick ES	476	5.0%	29.6%	6.5%	51.3%	6.9%	59.6%	33.5%	26.4%
Watkins Mill ES	733	2.5%	16.4%	6.5%	71.8%	2.5%	60.1%	57.9%	31.4%
Whetstone ES	740	3.4%	25.3%	7.7%	58.0%	5.3%	56.3%	41.8%	22.7%
Elementary Cluster Total	2629	3.2%	21.6%	6.7%	64.2%	3.8%	61.9%	50.7%	19.6%
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)

Schools	Program Capacity Table (School Year 2025–2026)															Special Education Services														
																Quad Cluster Based					County & Regional Based									
Grades Served	Capacity (HS @90% MS@85%)	Total Rooms	Support Rooms	Regular Secondary @25	Regular Elementary @23	CSR Grades 1–2 @18	Pre–K @20	Pre–K @40	HS @20	CSR KIND @18	KIND @22	ELD @15	METS @15	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
Watkins Mill HS	9-12	1831	91		74							4	3				3			6					1					
Montgomery Village MS	6-8	857	46		36							2	2				3			3										
Neelsville MS	6-8	956	47		42							3	2																	
South Lake ES	HS-5	768	43	5		16	13	1		1	7																			
Stedwick ES	PreK-5	666	39	5		15	8		1		4		1				5													
Watkins Mill ES	HS-5	722	41	5		14	13	1		1	7																			
Whetstone ES	PreK-5	735	43	5		13	12	2			6																	3	2	

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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
Watkins Mill HS	1989		305,288	50.99	Yes		HSWC
Montgomery Village MS	1968	2003	141,615	15.1			
Neelsville MS	1981	2024	162,684	29.19			
South Lake ES	1972	2023	113,549	10.2			SBHC
Stedwick ES	1974		109,677	10			
Watkins Mill ES	1970		82,939	10	Yes	4	
Whetstone ES	1968		96,946	8.8	Yes		

**See Appendix H for relocatable use.*