

BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE CLUSTER

CLUSTER PLANNING ISSUES

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster includes the following adopted sector plans—Bethesda Downtown, adopted 2017; Greater Lyttonsville, adopted 2017; and Westbard, adopted 2016. A brief description of each is below. As with many sector plans in the county, build-out requires the redevelopment of many existing land uses in the area. The pace of construction will be market driven.

- The Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan will provide additional multi-family residential units in downtown Bethesda and require a larger percentage (15%) of affordable units in new developments. There are currently seven approved residential or mixed-use developments in the pipeline which include 4,853 mainly high-rise dwelling units. Additional information can be found at the following weblink: <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/downcounty/bethesda-downtown-plan/>.
- The Greater Lyttonsville Plan includes up to 3,749 new multifamily high-rise housing units and 132 townhouse units. Additional information can be found at the following weblink: <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/downcounty/greater-lyttonsville/>.
- The Westbard Sector Plan could yield approximately 516 multifamily high-rise, 487 multifamily mid-rise, and 135 townhouse units. Additional information can be found at the following weblink: https://montgomeryplanning.org/community/westbard/documents/westbard_for_web9.1.pdf.

Planning Study: A study was approved in November 2017, to explore all possible solutions to add elementary capacity in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster. In the Walter Johnson Cluster, a Site Selection Committee held in spring 2018, identified possible sites for a new elementary school. However, the projected space deficits at the elementary school level in the Walter Johnson Cluster were not sufficient to recommend a new elementary school for the cluster. Given that the adopted CIP in November 2018, included a capacity study for the elementary schools in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster, the Board of Education approved expanding the capacity study to explore possible solutions that would include the elementary schools in both the Bethesda-Chevy Chase and Walter Johnson 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 for planning funds, however the planning funds are recommended to be reallocated to other projects and a future elementary school boundary study with an implementation date TBD is proposed to balance enrollment across cluster schools.

Due to fiscal constraints, the County Council shifted those expenditures to the out-years of the adopted FY 2025–2030 CIP. Once planning is complete, construction funds, along with a completion date, will be considered in a future CIP.

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

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

B-CC Cluster Articulation

2025–2026 School Year

Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS

Silver Creek MS

Chevy Chase ES
North Chevy Chase ES
Rock Creek Forest ES*
Rosemary Hills ES

Westland MS

Bethesda ES
Rock Creek Forest ES**
Somerset ES
Westbrook ES

* non-Spanish Immersion

** Spanish Immersion

See Appendix V for multicolored maps of the service areas.

BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE CLUSTER

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. 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. 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. 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.

Silver Creek Middle School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

Westland Middle School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

Bethesda Elementary School

Planning Study: See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase/Walter Johnson Clusters Elementary School

Planning Issue: See text under Cluster Planning Issues.

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 for planning funds, however, due to fiscal constraints, the County Council shifted those 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.

Chevy Chase Elementary School

Planning Study: See text under Cluster Planning Study.

North Chevy Chase Elementary School

Planning Study: See text under Cluster Planning Study.

Rock Creek Forest Elementary School

Planning Study: See text under Cluster Planning Study.

Rosemary Hills Elementary School

Planning Study: See text under Cluster Planning Study.

Somerset Elementary School

Planning Study: See text under Cluster Planning Study.

Westbrook Elementary School

Planning Study: See text under Cluster Planning Study.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Charles W. Woodward HS	Reopening	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.

BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE 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
Bethesda–Chevy Chase HS		Program Capacity	2475	2475	2475	2475	2475	2475	2475	2475	2475
		Enrollment	2285	2260	2230	2251	2259	2274	2260	2300	2300
		Available Space	190	215	245	224	216	201	215	175	175
		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						
Silver Creek MS		Program Capacity	915	915	915	915	915	915	915	915	915
		Enrollment	731	724	718	729	723	700	684	690	690
		Available Space	184	191	197	186	192	215	231	225	225
		Comments	See Text								
Westland MS		Program Capacity	1064	1064	1064	1064	1064	1064	1064	1064	1064
		Enrollment	841	866	873	848	842	816	798	810	810
		Available Space	223	198	191	216	222	248	266	254	254
		Comments	See Text								
Bethesda ES Grades (K–5)		Program Capacity	560	560	560	560	560	560	560		
		Enrollment	602	611	605	593	595	592	585		
		Available Space	(42)	(51)	(45)	(33)	(35)	(32)	(25)		
		Comments	See Text								
Chevy Chase ES Grades (3–5) Paired With Rosemary Hills ES		Program Capacity	483	483	483	483	483	483	483		
		Enrollment	465	468	466	467	467	467	467		
		Available Space	18	15	17	16	16	16	16		
		Comments	See Text								
North Chevy Chase ES Grades (3–5) Paired With Rosemary Hills ES		Program Capacity	391	391	391	391	391	391	391		
		Enrollment	211	213	203	217	217	217	217		
		Available Space	180	178	188	174	174	174	174		
		Comments	See Text								
Rock Creek Forest ES		Program Capacity	771	771	771	771	771	771	771		
		Enrollment	711	704	708	702	688	683	684		
		Available Space	60	67	63	69	83	88	87		
		Comments	See Text								
Rosemary Hills ES Grades (pre-K–2) Paired With Chevy Chase ES North Chevy Chase ES	CSR	Program Capacity	524	524	524	524	524	524	524		
		Enrollment	480	460	464	463	456	445	444		
		Available Space	44	64	60	61	68	79	80		
		Comments	See Text								
Somerset ES		Program Capacity	550	550	550	550	550	550	550		
		Enrollment	312	321	314	318	309	315	307		
		Available Space	238	229	236	232	241	235	243		
		Comments	See Text								
Westbrook ES		Program Capacity	648	648	648	648	648	648	648		
		Enrollment	463	462	446	445	443	443	430		
		Available Space	185	186	202	203	205	205	218		
		Comments	See Text								
Cluster Information		HS Utilization	92%	91%	90%	91%	91%	92%	91%	93%	93%
		HS Enrollment	2285	2260	2230	2251	2259	2274	2260	2300	2300
		MS Utilization	79%	80%	80%	80%	79%	77%	75%	76%	76%
		MS Enrollment	1572	1590	1591	1577	1565	1516	1482	1500	1500
		ES Utilization	83%	82%	82%	82%	81%	81%	80%		
		ES Enrollment	3244	3239	3206	3205	3175	3162	3134		

BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE 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%***
Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS	2285	6.1%	19.2%	8.2%	20.8%	45.4%	23.9%	10.7%	11.0%
Silver Creek MS	731	6.8%	28.5%	7.0%	19.0%	38.7%	32.6%	12.5%	12.8%
Westland MS	841	6.5%	15.1%	13.6%	20.8%	43.6%	17.5%	9.4%	10.2%
Bethesda ES	602	8.6%	19.6%	23.6%	14.8%	33.4%	25.3%	22.6%	27.8%
Chevy Chase ES	465	6.9%	29.0%	8.4%	13.3%	41.7%	34.8%	13.8%	9.3%
North Chevy Chase ES	211	6.2%	21.3%	8.5%	15.6%	48.3%	20.7%	8.4%	8.3%
Rock Creek Forest ES	711	6.2%	21.0%	8.4%	37.3%	26.9%	33.2%	18.8%	13.6%
Rosemary Hills ES	480	3.3%	30.4%	5.4%	17.7%	42.1%	40.5%	14.2%	18.5%
Somerset ES	312	9.3%	11.5%	13.5%	15.7%	50.0%	20.1%	14.6%	17.5%
Westbrook ES	463	8.6%	5.8%	9.5%	17.1%	59.0%	13.0%	11.8%	15.5%
Elementary Cluster Total	3244	7.0%	20.2%	11.4%	20.4%	40.7%	28.3%	16.3%	14.1%
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)

Schools	Special Education Services																
	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
Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS	9-12	2475	110		110												
Silver Creek MS	6-8	915	46		42							1		1			
Westland MS	6-8	1064	52		49							1					
Bethesda ES	K-5	560	29	3		20					4					2	
Chevy Chase ES	3-5	483	24	3		21											
North Chevy Chase ES	3-5	391	21	3		17								1			
Rock Creek Forest ES	K-5	771	40	3		27	1				4						
Rosemary Hills ES	PreK-2	524	36	4		2	15		1		7						
Somerset ES	K-5	550	27	3		22					2						
Westbrook ES	K-5	648	33	3		24					3						

BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE CLUSTER

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
Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS	1934	2001	392,833	16.36			
Silver Creek MS	2017		174,743	13.3			
Westland MS	1951	1997	146,006	25.1			
Bethesda ES	1952	1999	75,421	7.93		6	
Chevy Chase ES	1936	2000	70,976	3.78			
North Chevy Chase ES	1953	1995	65,982	7.9			
Rock Creek Forest ES	1950	2015	98,140	7.96			
Rosemary Hills ES	1956	1988	87,298	6.07			
Somerset ES	1949	2005	80,122	3.7			
Westbrook ES	1939	1990	91,359	12.46	Yes		

*See Appendix H for relocatable use.