

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

July 3, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Member of the Board of Education
From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: Choice Update: High School Program Options (05-30-19-03)

During the *Choice Update: High School Program Options* discussion, Board members requested the following:

Question A

Ms. Dixon requested that staff provide Board members with larger copies of the maps that were included in the PowerPoint presentation.

Response

Larger copies of these maps are included in the Attachment.

Questions B

Ms. Tadikonda requested the creation of a one-page flyer regarding the pre-requisite classes mentioned during the presentation for underclassmen.

Response

It is important to note that many of the regional programs that are scheduled to launch in the 2020–2021 school year will be interest-based, without academic requirements. For criteria-based programs, staff will develop a one-page flyer that will accompany common marketing materials that will be published in fall 2019.

Question D

Mrs. O’Neill suggested that staff ensure that female students are aware of all of the opportunities presented during the discussion.

Response

The fall 2019 outreach will have a variety of means to reach students and their families, with deliberate strategies to ensure gender balance and recruitment of traditionally underrepresented groups. This includes mailers, backpack flyers, e-mail communications, digital media (Twitter, Facebook), parent/guardian information meetings, and small group meetings (Parent Teacher Association, Parent Community Coordinator groups, Principal coffees). Female students and their families will be included in this outreach.

Question E

Ms. Dixon suggested that funding be provided to other high schools with similar programs, aside from those referenced during the presentation, to ensure that they can promote their own available programs.

Response

In the development of common marketing materials for the 2019–2020 school year, all high schools will be provided with support from staff in the Department of Communications for the development and publishing of marketing materials for all local high school programs.

Question F

Ms. Dixon suggested the addition of the NJROTC course offering to the chart received by Board members regarding the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs' Programs of Study.

Response

The chart will updated for the 2019–2020 school year. In the interim, the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program is listed with all other programs on the [Career Readiness website](#).

Question G

Mrs. Smondrowski suggested that the promotional videos shown during the presentation be aired in all county middle schools to raise awareness regarding the course offerings.

Response

The videos will be posted on the Montgomery County Public Schools website and can be added as a part of the tours conducted at Thomas Edison High School of Technology.

Question H

Mrs. O'Neill suggested that staff communicate to the Richard Montgomery High School community that the International Baccalaureate program there will remain.

Response

Following the May 30, 2019, presentation, a systemwide message was sent to all middle school families with a summary of the new regional programs. This message included information that the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program will remain in all current IB schools, including Richard Montgomery High School.

Question I

Ms. Silvestre suggested that staff include information regarding early college/dual enrollment opportunities, and the associated costs, in the discussed marketing materials.

Response

Information on all early college/dual enrollment programs will be included in the centralized common marketing materials that will be published in fall 2019. At this time, information is available on the MCPS [website](#).

Question J

Mrs. Smondrowski suggested that non-Maryland State approved programs are added to the bottom of the chart received by Board members regarding the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs' Programs of Study.

Response

The chart will be updated for the 2019–2020 school year. At this time, the programs that are not full Maryland State Department of Education-approved programs of study, are listed on the MCPS [website](#) under “Other Programs”.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Maria V. Navarro, chief academic officer, at 240-740-3040.

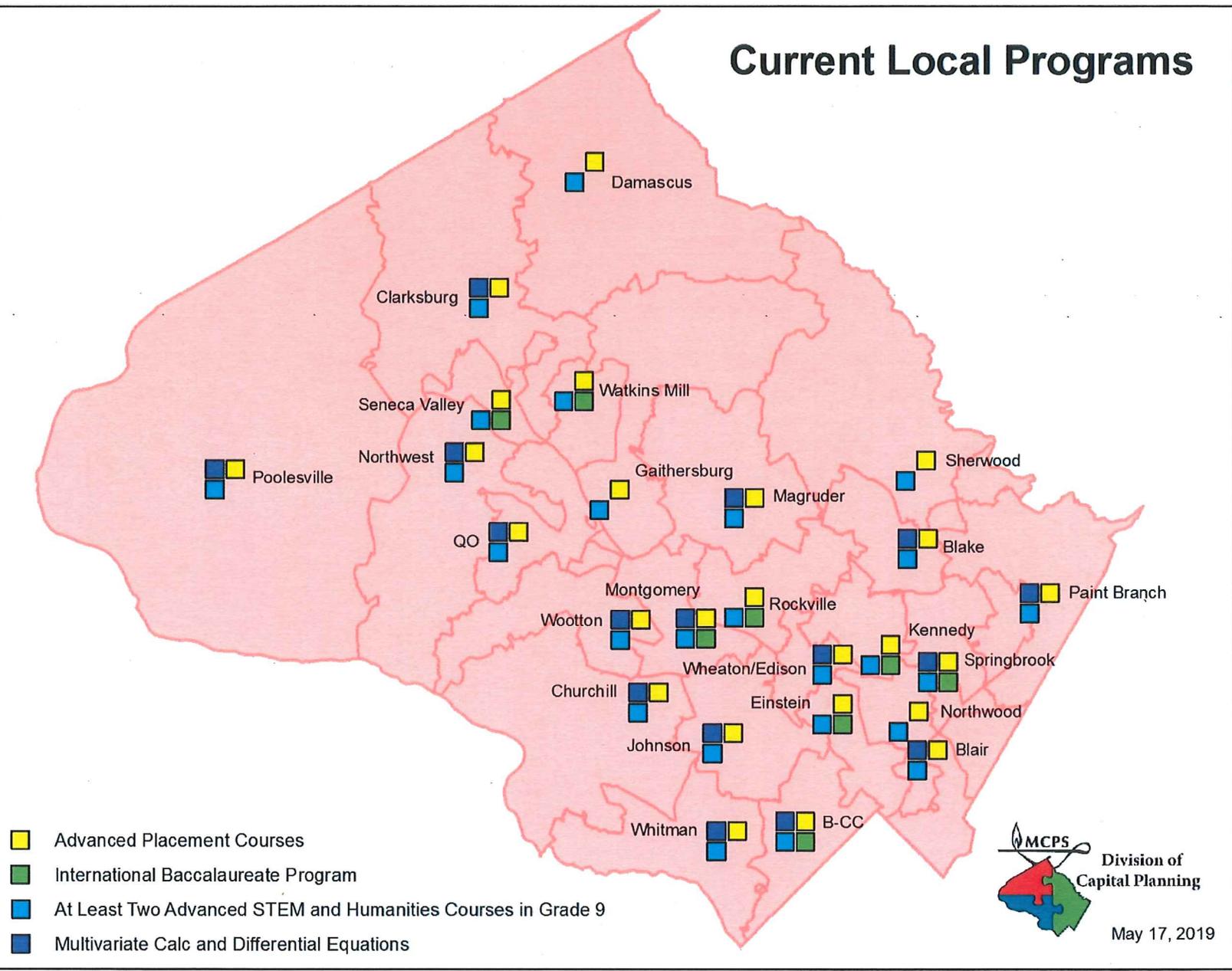
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Attachment

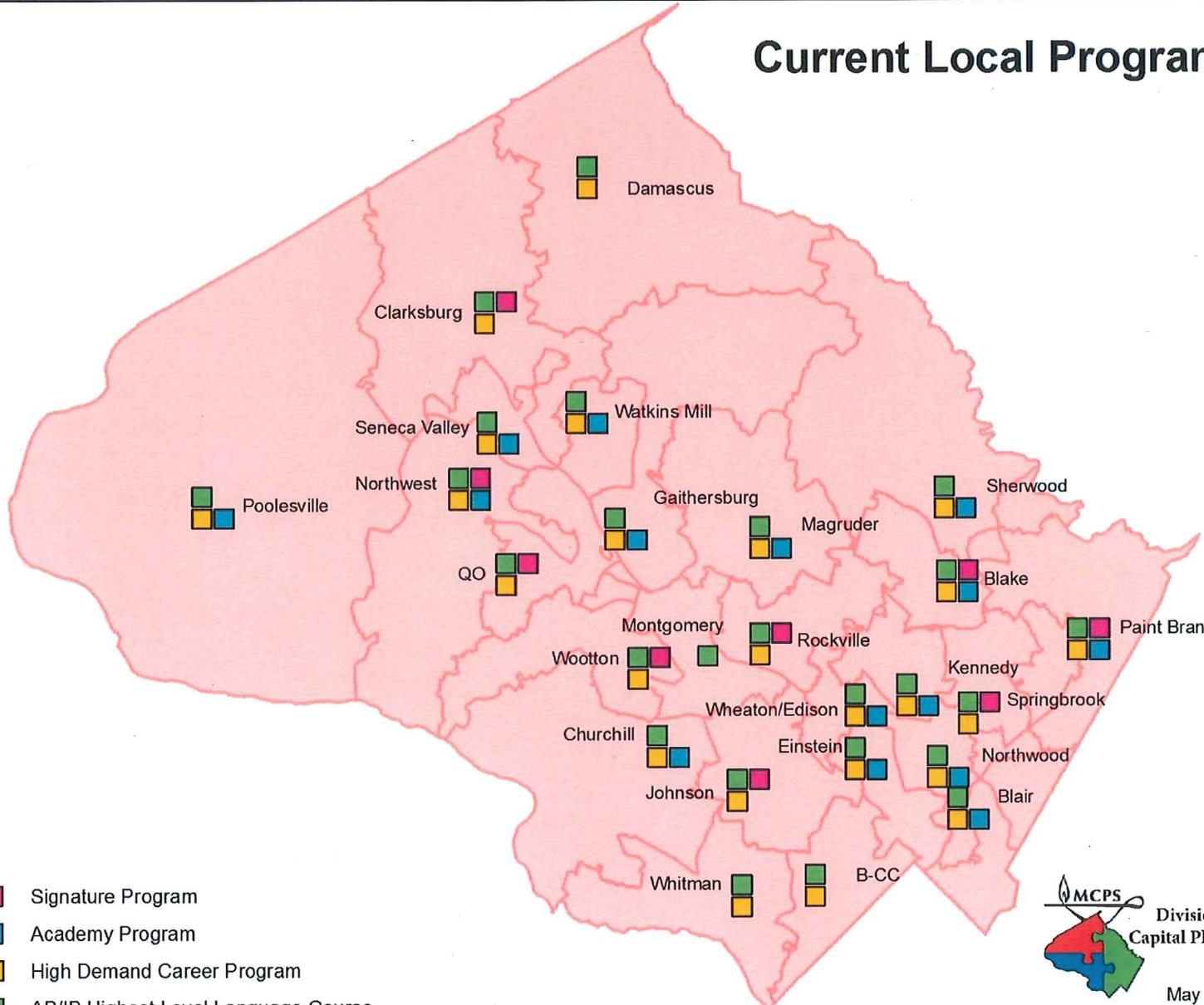
Copy to:

Executive Staff
Mr. Murphy
Ms. Webb

Current Local Programs

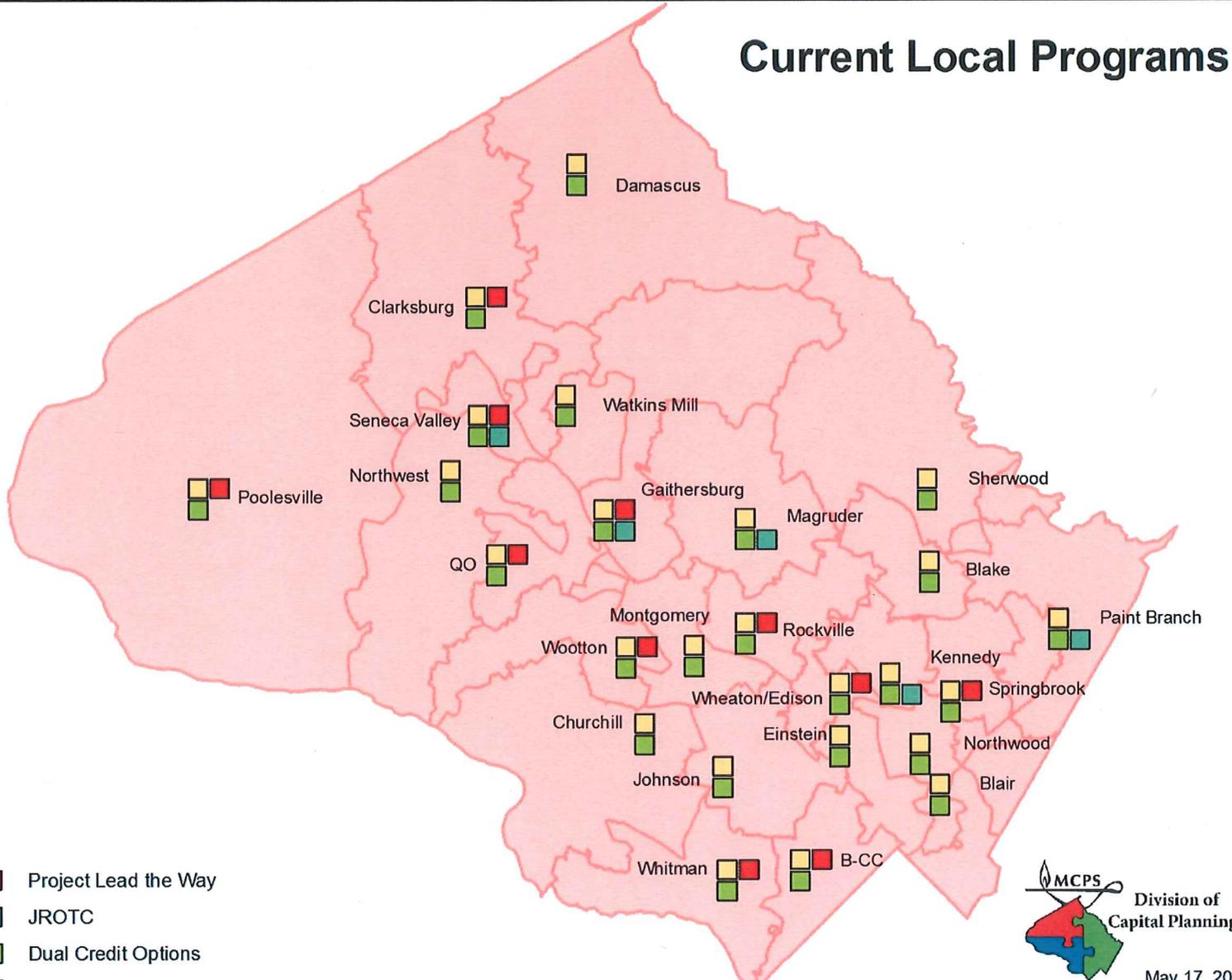


Current Local Programs



- Signature Program
- Academy Program
- High Demand Career Program
- AP/IB Highest Level Language Course

Current Local Programs



- Project Lead the Way
- JROTC
- Dual Credit Options
- Code.org

