

Together, For Each Child



In the midst of pervasive reform, Frederick County Public Schools has discovered the latest round of federal and state directives only reinforces the tenets that already guide how our schools conduct the business of education. This year, as they delved into the voluminous No Child Left Behind Act and went to work on the state-required five-year Bridge to Excellence Comprehensive Master Plan, local educators found clear parallels between the standards lawmakers have set for classrooms by 2014 and the goals, programs and initiatives in place in Frederick County schools today.

“It’s safe to say ours are among the first schools in Maryland well on the way to leaving no child behind. No matter how you look at the data, the longer a student attends our schools, the better he or she performs,” according to Dr. Jack Dale, FCPS superintendent. “In almost every subject, our present high school students meet the 2014 standards. The exceptions, here and nationally, tend to be students who are not proficient in English or who have special education needs.”

NCLB calls for schools, school systems and student subgroups to demonstrate adequate yearly progress. But knowing that AYP depends on the achievement of the students themselves, schools are honing their focus on the individual child.

Starting in 2003, teachers receive each student’s personal Maryland School Assessment results. Through evaluating these scores in combination with regular classroom achievement measures, teachers identify targeted methods and programs to improve performance.

“Lenses on Learning” and “Word Study” are new tools to teach elementary math and reading. Schools extend instruction outside the regular school day and during summer. Teachers modify their instructional style for children not reaching their potential for reasons such as poverty, family situation or cultural or ethnic learning differences. Full-day kindergarten kick-starts education at the county’s neediest schools. Students not meeting standards for their grade receive individual learning plans.

It’s up to schools and parents to guide students toward the tougher courses. But it’s up to the students to be responsible for their own success.

Just as students approach learning in different ways, they have different interests and aspirations. FCPS is responding. This year marked the opening of a third magnet site for gifted and talented education and the second year for a Montessori program, offered at the first charter school in Maryland. “Fast Forward” lets students earn college credit in high school. Course offerings such as Advanced Placement World

History and Film Study broaden the high school student’s horizons, as do academies where they can pursue specialized programs like Junior ROTC or Visual and Performing Arts.

The graduation project — a local diploma requirement starting with the Class of 2006 — entails in-depth research and draws on students’ unique skills and talents. The same class can aspire to State Scholar and Honors recognition for completing challenging coursework that better prepares them for college and the workplace.

Schools, Parents, Students, Community

It is impossible to dispute the powerful and positive correlation between family involvement and student success. In fact, three decades of research show parent involvement matters more than socio-economic status, ethnic background, or the parent’s education level.

Frederick County’s schools have traditionally welcomed parents and other family members at parent-teacher conferences and special programs, and they depend upon them as classroom volunteers, mentors and school improvement team members. But the FCPS Master Plan and the state’s and PTA’s parent involvement initiatives advocate an even stronger partnership.

Chief among the strategies is regular, two-way communication between home and school. This year, technology and television have facilitated communication as never before. Parents talk directly with teachers via phone, voicemail and e-mail. They link to the FCPS web site for facts, forms and Board of Education documents. And

Education is a community responsibility. All of us have work to do to assure Frederick County’s children achieve their full potential.

they tune to Channel 18 for emergency bulletins and news about the people, programs and policies that shape school life. In the future, schools will aim to increase the “give and take” of these conversations, provide parents more meaningful decision-making roles and engage all subgroups of the community.

The ability to implement these and other Master Plan strategies demands substantial resources, not the least of which are monetary. The County

Commissioners and Board of Education have begun examining collaborative solutions to finance the rising cost of education. FCPS relies on the state — including its still-questionable “Thornton Commission” allotment — to share the cost of instruction, textbooks, buses and program enhancements. As enrollment continues to grow, the county has stepped up its construction and renovation contribution, while the state’s portion has fallen short of requests.

“Education is a community responsibility, and there’s work to be done,” says Dr. Dale. “Schools, families, students, citizens and elected officials all have a job to do to assure Frederick County’s children achieve their full potential.”



Success Stories

FCPS launched full-day kindergarten in 8 schools.

The third magnet program for gifted and talented students opened at New Market Elementary.

Brunswick, Hillcrest, Liberty, Monocacy, South Frederick, Spring Ridge and Waverley elementary schools received state validation for kindergarten and/or pre-kindergarten excellence.

Dozens of parents tutor students at Brunswick Middle, which even offers Saturday school for additional help.

Whittier Elementary's *Adopt-a-Soldier* and H.E.R.O. (*Helping Everyone Respect Others*) programs show character counts.

The National Fallen Firefighters Association recognized Ballenger Creek 7th graders for their Pennies for Heroes fundraiser.

At Oakdale Middle, *Positive Behavior Intervention and Support* teaches students respect for others, property and themselves.

This is Governor Thomas Johnson High's Year of Rededication, celebrating not only its modernized building but also its continuing tradition of academic achievement.

Middletown Middle students show they care by gathering school supplies for Ugandan children and visiting nursing homes.

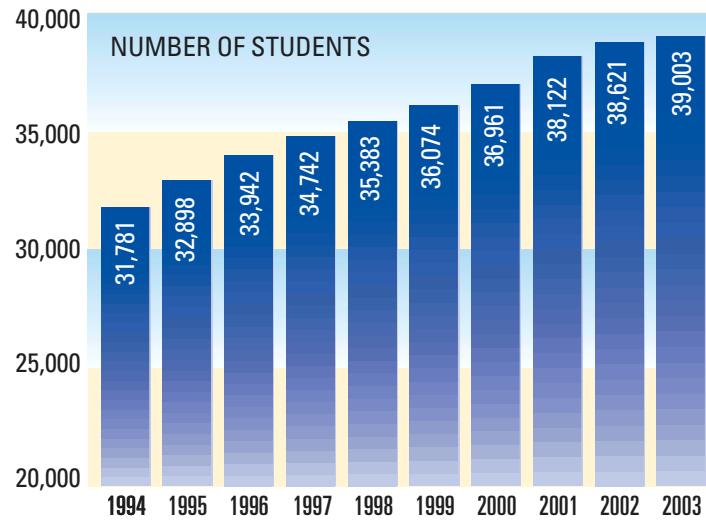
100% of Wolfsville 3rd-5th graders participated in the Science Fair.

Walkersville Middle's Project GAP (*Gaining Achievement Potential*) helps students with challenging behaviors achieve academic success.

Catoctin and Brunswick high school students were the first in Maryland to present their research at Goddard Space Flight Center.



ENROLLMENT – Growing Year by Year



Students by Level

- High (grades 9-12) 11,627
- Middle (grades 6-8) 9,310
- Elementary (grades 1-5) 14,473
- Pre-K & Kindergarten 3,286
- Other Schools & Programs 307



A Closer Look

Race/Ethnicity — 83% White, 9.8% African American, 4.1% Hispanic, 2.9% Asian, Pacific Islander, 0.2% American Indian, Alaskan Native

Non-Native Speakers — 816 students representing 42 languages participate in ESL classes. Dominant native languages: Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Russian and Urdu.

Accelerated Learning — 40% in grades 1-5 enrichment/acceleration, 1.8% in elementary gifted and talented magnet schools; 50.2% in middle school honors classes; 56.7% in middle school Renzulli enrichment; 46.5% in grades 9-12 honors classes; 17.9%* in grades 11-12 Advanced Placement; 2.6% in grades 9-12 concurrently enrolled in college/university

*Previously reported by the number of AP classes a student took; now reported by the number of students who take AP classes; many take more than one.

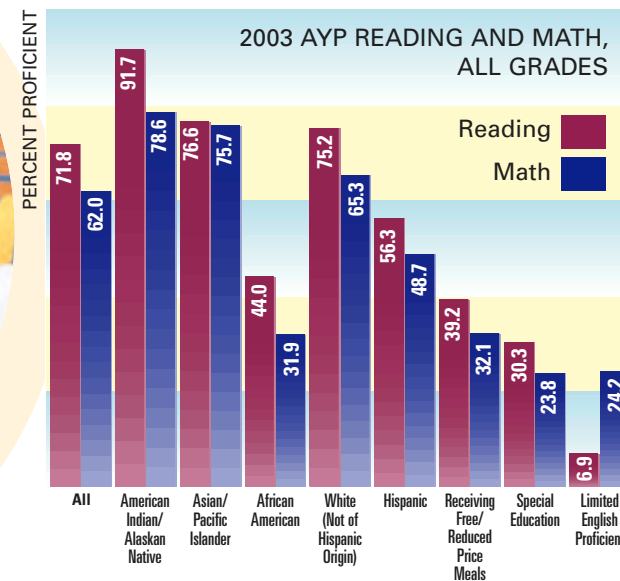
Special Education — 4,728 students, or 12% of FCPS enrollment, of whom 378 attend special programs or schools

Low Income — 13% come from homes whose family incomes qualify them for free or reduced-price meals

TESTS – Measuring Student Progress

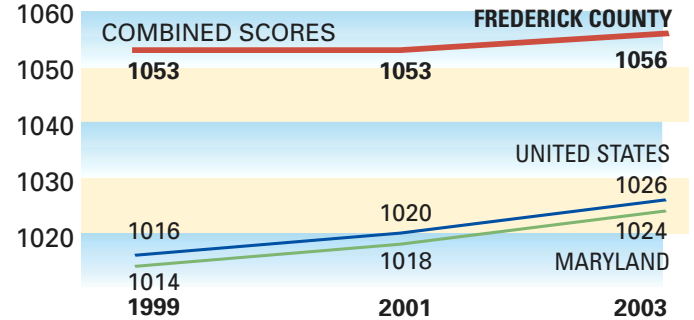
Maryland School Assessments

First administered in 2003 in reading, math and geometry to all 3rd, 5th, 8th & 10th graders, MSAs are state tests that bring Maryland in compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Schools and districts must show that each of 8 subgroups meets statewide targets annually and that all groups meet proficiency standards by 2014. In February and March 2004, all Maryland students in grades 3 through 8 and 10 will take the MSAs. The next round of tests will begin to reveal trend information toward state-defined adequate yearly progress goals.



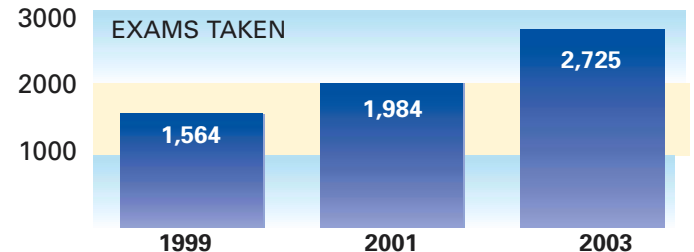
SAT-1

59% of all FCPS seniors took the SAT-1 college entrance exam



Advanced Placement

Students took 426 more AP exams this year than last — the greatest single-year increase at FCPS — and 67% earned scores that qualified for college credit



Other Measures

Certificate of Merit – earned by 56% of high school seniors

Attendance Rate – 94.4%

Dropout Rate – 1.29%, second lowest in Maryland

Graduation Rate – 92.9%

\$7,725 – A Year's Education for One Student*



- \$ 6,060** Teachers, guidance counselors, principals and assistants, secretarial support, curriculum, library media and other specialists, including special education staff and special program placement
- \$ 764** School and grounds maintenance, computer and equipment repair, warehouse services and facilities planning
- \$ 339** Pupil transportation
- \$ 253** Textbooks, supplies, testing and instruction-related costs
- \$ 156** Student support, community and health services
- \$ 153** Central administration including fiscal, technology, communications, legal and human services, and the offices of the superintendent and Board of Education

*2002 – 2003



Success Stories

Heather Ridge earned a school-wide 96.6% passage rate on the Maryland Functional Reading Test.

Windsor Knolls Middle won a Weinberg Foundation Intergenerational Program Award for its Veterans Partnership Project.

30 Middletown High freshmen signed on for the challenging APEX program to complete at least six Advanced Placement classes by graduation.

Frederick High is the only school in Maryland to win the Felix Simon Award for Outstanding Student Government twice, and its Connections initiative earned the state Excellence for Minority Achievement Award.

The Earth & Space Science Lab raised over \$200,000 toward its expansion goal.

Sabillasville students treated parents to an Author's Night to show how an after-school computer class helped them become better writers.

Students began using pedometers and heart-rate monitors to learn about personal fitness.

The Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals awarded Brunswick Elementary a family involvement grant for Reading Express.

The FCPS Class of 2003 received 1,683 scholarship offers totaling over \$25 million.

"Health Matters" debuted on FCPS Channel 18.

FCPS broke ground for Tuscarora Elementary and Crestwood Middle.

Tuscarora, the county's 9th high school, opened to 670 9th & 10th graders.

Former senator and astronaut John Glenn presented Walkersville Elementary 4th graders the International Space Day 1st place award.

Maryland named Walkersville High's FFA the state's 2003 outstanding student organization.

Monocacy Middle students won Maryland's first Reading Rally.

Urbana High is authorized to offer the diploma program of the International Baccalaureate Organization.

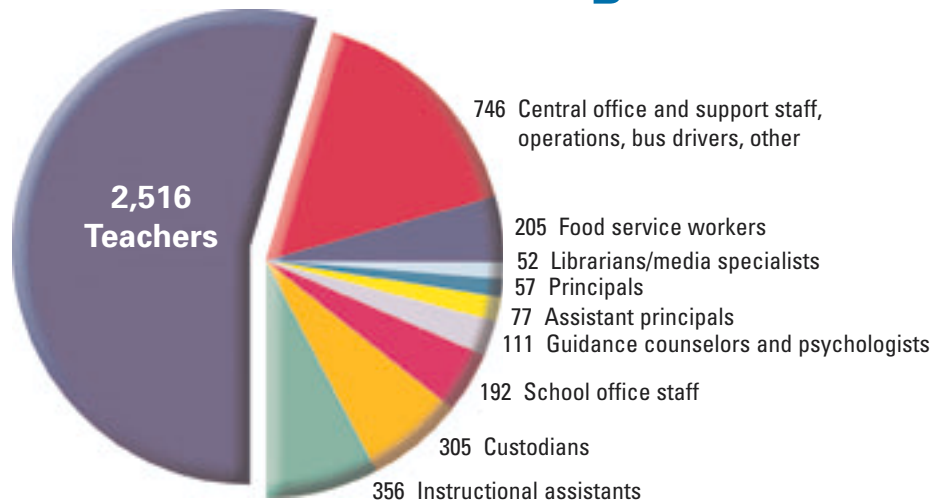
Oakdale Elementary students won over \$16,000 in awards and grants for their school.

Frederick County is 1 of 2 Maryland districts chosen for the U.S. Department of Education's Scholars Program, which encourages students to take challenging coursework to better prepare them for success after graduation.

Glade Elementary completed the county's first National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat.

Linganore High launched a Junior ROTC academy.

EMPLOYEES – Giving Their Best*



*4,617 full-time equivalent positions; rounded to whole numbers

267 New Teachers*

93 first-time teachers with a Bachelor's degree
 33 with Master's degrees
 64 with more than 6 years previous teaching experience

74 former FCPS substitutes
 46 FCPS student teachers
 13 former support employees
 18 minorities

131 Frederick County residents
 49 FCPS graduates

*Hired Oct. 2002 – Oct. 2003

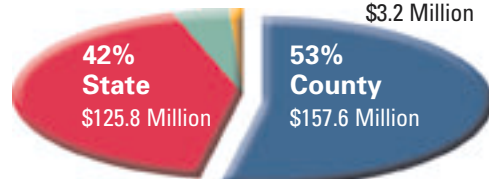
OPERATING COSTS – A Community Challenge

OPERATIONS - \$299.6 million*

County, state and federal funds along with grants cover day-to-day school system operations and activities, including salaries, instructional materials and equipment, bus transportation, technology and training.

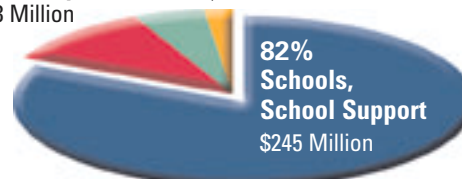
Revenue Sources

4% Federal \$13 Million 1% Interest Income/Other \$3.2 Million



Expenditures

5% Student Transportation \$14.3 Million
 2% Administration \$6.9 Million
 11% Physical Plant \$32.2 Million
 82% Schools, School Support \$245 Million



* For 2002-2003. For an audited annual report, please contact the FCPS Office of the Comptroller, 7630 Hayward Road, Frederick, Maryland 21702, 301-644-5043

SCHOOLS

Capital Fund - \$38.7 million

State and county dollars pay for new school construction, major renovations and additions, land purchases, technology equipment and related capital expenses.

Schools – 53 traditional, 5 special

Operating Over Capacity – 20

Building Enrollment – 95% of capacity systemwide

Average Class Size – 24 elementary, 26 middle, 28 high

Portable Classrooms – 145

Student Support and Health Services

Guidance Counselors to Students – 1:558 elementary; 1:382 middle; 1:331 high

Psychologists to Students – 1:2,000

Health Room Visits – 1,459 per day average, 39% for medication administration

Health Screenings – 10,879 vision; 10,615 hearing; 2,757 scoliosis

Proposed New Schools & Additions*

SCHOOL	SCHEDULED OPENING
Crestwood Middle	2004
Tuscarora Elementary	2004
Centerville Elementary	2005
Urbana High addition	2005
Brunswick Middle addition	2006
Carroll Manor addition	2006
Middletown Primary	2006
New Market Elementary addition	2006
New Urbana-area middle	2006
Thurmont Primary addition	2006
Emmitsburg Elementary addition	2007
Oakdale Elementary addition	2007
Yellow Springs Elementary addition	2007
Brunswick High addition	2008
New Frederick-area elementary (north)	2008
New east-county area high	2008
Middletown High addition	2009
Oakdale Middle addition	2009
Tuscarora High addition	2009
Valley Elementary modernization	2009
South Frederick "B" Elementary modernization	2010
Linganore High modernization	2010
New Brunswick-area elementary	2010
New Frederick-area elementary (west)	2010
North Frederick Elementary modernization	2010
Walkersville High addition	2010
Kemptown Elementary addition	2011
Middletown Middle addition	2011
Urbana Elementary modernization	2011
West Frederick Middle modernization	2011

*2003 Educational Facilities Master Plan

Technology

Computers – 1 for every 5 students

Internet Connected – 100% of schools

Computers Past Warranty – 75%

Network Technicians to Computers – 1:1,571

General Technicians to Computers – 1:1,200

Teacher Specialists to Staff – 1:742

Teacher Salaries

Entry-level teacher with Bachelor's - \$32,817

Entry-level teacher with Master's - \$35,294

Teacher with 10 years experience - \$45,201

Bus Transportation

Buses – 425

Riders – 33,301

Miles Traveled – 6,478,633 per school year – the equivalent of 270 orbits of the Earth

Bus Cost – \$49,394

Drivers – 360 regular drivers, 50 extra drivers, 50 bus assistants

Field Trips – 5,600



Volunteers and Work-Based Learning

7,609 volunteers gave their time and talent to FCPS

159 local businesses and agencies had active formal partnerships with FCPS

542 high school juniors and seniors had work-study experiences, **356** did internships, and **578** participated in student service learning

99.1% of employers were satisfied with students' work performance

School Meals

Food Service Fund – \$8.2 million (federal and state funds and income from selling meals reimburse FCPS for the cost of school meals)

Served Daily – 13,468 lunches; 2,029 breakfasts

Full-Price Student Lunch – \$1.75 elementary, \$2 secondary

Reduced-Price Student Lunch – 40¢

To find out more about Frederick County Public Schools:

- Call 301-696-6900
- Visit www.fcps.org
- Watch FCPS channel 18
- Visit a school near you!



Frederick County Public Schools

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