

# *Fast Facts* about the **FY17 Budget**



- The Howard County Board of Education FY 2017 budget request prioritizes what matters most, to invest responsibly in our students and schools, and secure the future for our school system and entire community.
- The Board of Education approved an Operating Budget Request totaling \$856.4 million, an increase of nearly \$18 million over the Superintendent's budget request.
- The \$17.8 million increase reflects the Board's commitment to providing a world-class educational program that meets the needs of an increasingly diverse student body, appropriately supports and compensates excellent teachers and staff, and sustains the success of a system that enjoys a national reputation for quality teaching and learning.
- The budget request also includes funding to:
  - Extend pre-K–Grade 5 world language instruction into additional schools.
  - Add nine new middle school technology teachers, the initial phase of a two-year plan to provide a technology teacher in every county middle school.
  - Add a Coordinator of Diversity and Inclusion position, to ensure a diverse workforce, inclusive curriculum and culturally proficient staff.
- Of each budget dollar:
  - 80 cents is allocated directly to fund school staff and teaching materials
  - 5 cents to transportation
  - 11 cents for operating and maintaining our buildings and facilities
  - Central Office administration and support accounts for just 4 cents per budget dollar
- HCPSS is the fastest growing county in Maryland. Nearly 1,100 new students are expected in fall 2016. Our school system needs 65 new teachers, paraeducators, and others to support these new students without compromising classroom quality.
- A large and growing proportion of students face poverty, language barriers and other challenges that interfere with learning. The HCPSS budget provides the additional supports that these students need to succeed.
  - More than 10,200 (one in every five) Howard County students are eligible for Free and Reduced-Price Meals – a 43 percent increase over just five years ago.
  - 8.5 percent of students receive special education services.
  - Over 2,300 students are English Language Learners, representing 58 different languages and 75 different countries.
- County Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding and state aid calculations do not provide funding for student enrollment growth in the year that the growth occurs. This results in chronic under-funding for growing school systems such as HCPSS.
  - If actual enrollment were funded in the MOE and state aid calculations, FY16 funding from the county would have been \$8.1 million higher, and the state funding would have been \$4.5 million higher.

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# *Fast Facts* about the **FY17 Budget** *Continued...*

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- Competitive compensation, combined with an attractive benefits package, helps HCPSS maintain an outstanding workforce.
- The FY 2017 budget request includes \$26.8 million for negotiated salary increases, which represents the equivalent of a 1-step increase and a 2 percent cost of living increase for all staff members.
- The Board of Education reached a tentative agreement with the Howard County Education Association (HCEA), which represents almost 5,000 certificated employees, for wages, hours and working conditions during the next two school years. The agreement is structured to establish more consistent steps, increases to make up for a lost step in 2010, and increases in career earnings potential.
- Our school system has taken significant funding reductions and efficiency measures over the last two years when county and state budgets were strained. These measures have helped to contain our costs, but they have hindered our forward momentum, strained our resources, and burdened our staff.
- Howard County enjoys a well-earned reputation for excellence in education. Each year, our public schools and students rank among the highest in the state and nation.
  - At 93.47 percent, Howard County students are graduating at a rate that outpaces the state average (87.0 percent) and is three percentage points higher than it was four years ago.
  - The average SAT score exceeded 1650 for the third year in a row, a benchmark for college readiness and critical scholarship eligibility.
  - HCPSS is one of only two systems in Maryland named to the AP District Honor Roll.
- Achievement rates for specific groups of students, including African American, Hispanic and students of other backgrounds, are showing positive growth, and the system is doing more to address diversity and inclusion.
- Public school quality is intrinsically linked to the prosperity of our local economy. Research by noted economist Anirban Basu of the Sage Policy Group shows that HCPSS has a direct, positive impact on the local economy that totals approximately 8 percent of county output.
- HCPSS:
  - Supports nearly 13,000 jobs in Howard County.
  - Drives \$1.85 billion in local business sales – more than twice the HCPSS annual budget. In other words – every \$1 invested in HCPSS, brings a \$2 return on investment.