



The LEGISLATIVE Exchange

Prince George's County Public Schools Government Relations Update

FALL 2024

PREPARING FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE AT PGCPSS



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2024-2025 Priorities

School Safety and Security

School safety and security is the highest priority for PGCPSS because it is essential for providing an environment where students and staff can focus on learning and teaching. A secure school setting promotes emotional health, allowing students to engage more positively with teachers and peers. PGCPSS continues to access funding through Maryland Safe to Learn Act grants for building security measures and school-related projects and services, such as security enhancement devices. PGCPSS, however, is in need of additional funding to upgrade and install school building security measures and cover the cost of staff to operate and monitor the use of these measures.

Blueprint Implementation

PGCPSS is focused on implementing curriculum frameworks and academic standards that align with the Blueprint mandates and setting goals for student achievement that meet the Blueprint accountability measures and performance

expectations. Professional development for staff that address ongoing Blueprint implementation is also a focus for PGCPSS. Increased state funding as well as MSDE and AIB guidance provided in a timely manner is needed to ensure that PGCPSS is able to comply with Blueprint requirements.

Immunizations for Students New to the US

From July 1 to September 30, PGCPSS enrolled over 4,000 newly arrived K-12 students from outside the U.S. Many of these students could not meet the immunization requirements mandated by COMAR 10.06.04, resulting in their exclusion from the enrollment count and a loss of millions in state funding through the Foundation program. Additionally, these students missed school, potentially harming their future success. PGCPSS is advocating for an extension of the immunization appointment deadline to 45 days after temporary admission.

Construction and Facilities

Of the 200+ PGCPSS school buildings more than half of the buildings are 40 or more years old. Most of these buildings require a variety of repairs,

such as ADA corrections, asbestos abatement, buried fuel tanks, lead remediation, HVAC/ plumbing upgrades, ventilation repairs, systemic replacements and healthy school repairs, etc.

To do these repairs PGCPSS requested approximately 71 million dollars for the FY 25, however, only \$18,185,000 was approved. To address this deficiency, PGCPSS is in need of increased State funding that is commensurate with modern day costs of renovating and maintaining high-quality learning environments and the continuation of the Aging School Program.

Securing enough qualified train staff remains a challenge. However, the Facilities Department is working with PGCPSS's CTE program to offer apprenticeships in fields like electricity and plumbing. This program has successfully provided employment for students after graduation and developed a skilled workforce.



Groundbreaking for Margaret Brent Elementary School in New Carrollton, Maryland.

PGCPS Achieves Financial Close on Blueprint Schools Phase II

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) along with its selected partner, Progressive Education Partners (PEP), a Plenary Americas-led consortium, has reached financial close on the PGCPS Blueprint Schools Phase II Project ("Phase II Project").

The Phase II Project includes the construction of eight (8) new school facilities - six (6) elementary schools and two (2) PK-8 Academies including Springhill Lake Elementary School, Fairwood Area Elementary School, Templeton Elementary School, Hyattsville Elementary School, Margaret Brent Elementary School, James Duckworth Elementary School, Brandywine Area PK-8 Academy and Robert Frost Area PK-8 Academy - by 2028.

PEP will also be responsible for maintenance and rehabilitation for each school throughout the 30-year operating term.

PGCPS Celebrates Green Leadership at 'Driving Green Action' Event

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) reaffirmed its commitment to climate action and sustainability at the Driving Green Action event on Wednesday, October 2 at Ellen Ochoa Middle School, the district's newest net-zero energy school. Superintendent Millard House II thanked state and local partners for their continued support in advancing PGCPS's sustainability efforts and highlighted the district's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), the first of its kind for a Maryland school district.



Superintendent House and Board Members join local leaders for Driving Green Action.

Legislative Day is Coming Soon

We're absolutely thrilled to unveil the PGCPS Legislative Platform for the 2024-2025 school year at our highly anticipated Legislative Day on November 8, 2024! This year's theme is "Aerospace: Lift Off 🚀". This marks our second year showcasing the groundbreaking PGCPS legislative positions and programs, and we're even more excited to host it at the brand-new Ellen Ochoa Middle School in Landover Hills, Maryland. The is named after the first Hispanic Astronaut to go to space.

You won't want to miss it! Be sure to RSVP or reach out at govrelations@pgcps.org. See you there for a day full of innovation and inspiration!



A Note from the Chair of the Prince George's County Board of Education



On behalf of our ten-member, fully elected Prince George's County Board of Education, I want to extend our sincere gratitude for the efforts you've made both in and out of legislative sessions to secure vital funding that directly benefits the scholars, parents, teachers, and communities of Prince George's County. Your commitment to our district has made a profound impact, and we deeply appreciate your continued support.

As we prepare for the 2025 legislative session, we look forward to working collaboratively with you to develop thoughtful and impactful legislation that aligns with your goals while ensuring smooth and effective implementation across our school system. Together, we will continue to educate, advocate, and act in the best interests of Prince George's County.

I invite you to reach out to me, Dr. Kenneth Harris, your respective board members, or the PGCPs legislative chair directly to discuss any ideas or suggestions for future legislation. As our Policy & Governance Committee continues to work collaboratively with the Government Relations department within Prince George's County Schools, we know, trust, and believe that this legislative season will be our best yet!

Please see our district map at [CLICK HERE](#) to see your school board member and the respective schools in your districts. We are excited for another productive, collaborative, and successful legislative session ahead.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,
Lolita E. Walker

Chair, Prince George's County Board of Education



POLICY & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Jonathan Briggs, Chair

We are pleased to share the Policy and Governance Committee accomplishments during the **2023-2024** school year

During the 2023-2024 school year the Policy and Governance Committee enacted a total of twenty (**20**) policies that were either revised or newly developed. The policies covered a wide variety of topics including professional development for Board members, acceptable use and security of information technology, intellectual property rights, educational equity, service animals in schools, to name a few.

Of particular interest to schools were the following policies:

BP 0123 Artificial Intelligence provides guidelines for the introduction and use of artificial intelligence with staff for productivity and instruction and with students for instruction.

BP 5180 Student Use of Social Media and Portable Electronic Devices in Schools directs students to use their cell phones in specific areas of the school and at specific times during the day as designated by the principal in addition to while riding on the school bus to and from school. The policy also permits students to use their cell phones and social media platforms for educational purposes only if approved by the principal. Students are prohibited from sharing or

accessing inappropriate content that may disrupt the learning environment.

BP 0105 – Parent, Family and Community Involvement reflects the Board of Education's commitment to involve parents and families of students attending PGCPs in the education of their children and strengthen family-school partnerships that support student achievement.

BP 0125 – Antidiscrimination - The key components of this policy include: prohibition of employment discrimination; prohibition of discrimination in educational programs and activities; reporting and investigating incidents of discrimination; disciplinary action for individuals who have committed acts of discrimination; protection against retaliatory actions for individuals reporting incidents of discriminations and confidentiality and privacy.

BP 5120 - Search and Seizure has been developed to ensure a balance between maintaining safe learning environments and respecting students' rights. It provides guidelines for the use of search and seizure in the schools and the tracking of searches of students and their possessions to ensure that searches are equitable and justified.

Currently, the Board of Education has sent **BP Policy 8102 - Officers** out to receive public comment.



PGCPS CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

November 04

BOE: Board Audit Committee Meeting
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Virtual/Zoom Meeting

November 06

BOE: Parent and Community Advisory Council (PCAC) Meeting
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Virtual/Zoom Meeting

November 08

Legislative Day
9:00 - 11:00 AM
Ellen Ochoa Middle School

November 07

BOE: Closed Session
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Sasscer Administration Building

November 11

BOE: Academic Achievement Committee Meeting
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Virtual/Zoom Meeting

Good News!

Suitland CVPA Choir at White House

Sixteen students from Suitland High School's Center for the Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) Choir had the opportunity to share their talents on a national stage during a performance at the White House on Saturday, September 21, 2024. The choir was part of the opening celebration for The People's House: A White House Experience, with First Lady Jill Biden in attendance.

Under the direction of CVPA Vocal Music Director Colin Lett and Music Chair Jean Fadiga, the students showcased their incredible vocal talents on the South Lawn.

Created by the White House Historical Association, the new 'People's House' mixes history with technology to give visitors a glimpse into parts of the White House they wouldn't even see on an official tour, such as the Oval Office and Cabinet Room.

