



FY2025 Capital Budget Highlights

The Capital Budget differs from the operating budget in that it is structured in terms of projects. Each year, the school system is required to submit a six-year plan to the State of Maryland outlining new building requirements and renovation requests. Historically, State funding represents approximately 20 percent of the annual Capital Budget, with Anne Arundel County Government providing the balance. The following information reflects the proposed FY2025 Capital Budget:

Recurring Projects — \$62.2 million

These projects provide for student safety, ADA compliance, environmental stewardship, long range planning, ongoing systemic facility improvements, and replacement of consumable goods such as school furniture and buses.

Major Capital Projects — \$172.3 million

There are three major construction projects (CAT North, Old Mill HS, and Old Mill MS North) and a major design project for a School Bus Facility/Lot in this category.

The \$172.3 million major capital projects request also contains \$4 million for a classroom addition for Park ES.

Key Dates in FY2025 Budget Process

Jan.	9	Public Hearing • Old Mill High School
	11	Public Hearing • Parham Building
	16	BOE Budget Workshop • Parham Building
Feb.	21	BOE approves FY2025 budget request
May	1	County Executive's recommended Operating & Capital Budgets forwarded to County Council
	TBD	County Council holds public hearings
June	15	County Council's deadline to approve final budgets
	18	BOE approval of Operating & Capital Budgets (date subject to change)
July	1	FY2025 Budgets implemented

Recommended FY2025 Capital Budget Priority

1	Health & Safety '25	\$1,200,000
2	Security Related Upgrades '25	2,000,000
3	Building Systems Ren. '26 (Systemics)	32,310,000
4	Maintenance Backlog Reduction '25	7,000,000
5	Roof Replacement '25	4,000,000
6	Relocatable Classrooms '25	1,200,000
7	Asbestos Abatement '25	600,000
8	Barrier Free Access '25	350,000
9	Sustainability Initiatives '25	2,000,000
10	School Bus Replacement '25	3,000,000
11	School Bus Facility/Lot — Feasibility/Design	1,346,000
12	BOE Project and Program Planning	300,000
13	Additions '25	4,000,000
14	CAT North — Construction	52,095,000
15	Old Mill HS — Construction	69,784,000
16	Old Mill MS North — Construction	45,117,000
17	Health Room Modifications '25	350,000
18	School Furniture '25	600,000
19	Upgrade Various Schools '25	800,000
20	Vehicle Replacement '25	500,000
21	Aging Schools '25	575,000
22	Playground Equipment Improvements '25	400,000
23	Athletic Stadium Improvements '25	3,500,000
24	Driveway and Parking Lot Improvements '25	1,500,000

Total FY2025 Recommended Capital Budget \$234,527,000



The Superintendent's Recommended Budget FY2025 Budget in Brief

The expiration of federal ESSER funding and the continuing mandates of the Blueprint for Maryland's future require us to continue to reimagine the way we do things—to innovate—as we move forward. That is what will drive us to the results we want within the fiscal limitations that exist.

The days of school systems being flush with funds are over. We can no longer just think or even work outside the proverbial box. **We must build new boxes as we innovatively confront the difficult challenges of increasing academic achievement, retaining quality employees, and addressing issues such as rising health-care costs.**

Our team began the final phase of our Fiscal Year 2025 budget process by debating and discussing nearly \$126.5 million in proposed departmental requests and programmatic enhancements, considering them along with Blueprint mandates, other required expenditures, Board priorities, and the need to provide additional compensation increases to our employees.

My recommendation requests funding for just 14 percent of those programs and enhancements—\$18.3 million—not because the remainder were unworthy, but because the fiscal reality demands that we simply can't do everything we want. We will fund other programs and initiatives we need to undertake by shifting money from other areas of our budget instead of requesting additional funding.

In all, the operating budget I have recommend to the Board of Education totals \$1.71 billion, a \$61.2 million increase over our current allocation when accounting for other revenue decreases. The 3.7 percent increase is the smallest recommended increase in nine years.

Nearly 61.5 percent of the increase is allocated to salaries and benefits—inclusive of health care—for our employees. The compensation request is sufficient to fund a step increase or step equivalent for eligible employees and a 3 percent cost-of-living adjustment for all employees. Between step increases and COLAs, funding these items this year would mean our employees will have received as much as 21 percent in compensation increases over the last three years. I have also continued funding for a \$2,000 bonus for special educators to help attract top candidates in one of our most critical shortage areas.



This recommendation continues to request funding to meet Blueprint mandates. In addition to increases in the College and Career Readiness and Workforce Development areas, there is \$7.9 million to go toward the provision of resources as the number of Community Schools in our district expands from 23 to an estimated 36.



We have invested \$4.5 million for 35.9 positions over the last three years to provide additional social and emotional support resources for students. My recommendation contains \$3.2 million for 24.5 more positions—8.5 school counselors, 8 school psychologists, 6 social workers, and 2 pupil personnel workers—to continue this work.

Our students don't just need people to talk to, however. They need activities in which they can engage. In that regard, this recommendation contains \$682,000 for the

first year of a two-year plan to launch a middle school interscholastic athletics program in our county. This program would ultimately offer sports over three seasons, providing precious access and directly supporting the physical, mental, and social health of students. There is also a direct community benefit to this program because it will provide students with productive ways to spend their time after school. The sports seasons complement those offered by our high schools and the county Department of Recreation and Parks, so this is a win for everyone.



We have a growing number of students who require increasingly diverse specialized instruction, and we must meet those needs. This has been an area of focus for me over the last year and something I have discussed with families and employees in almost every venue in which I've spoken. My recommendation contains \$4.7 million for 56.4 special education teachers, assistants, and occupational and physical therapists, including 12.5 positions as part of a new regional program to be located at Old Mill West High School when it opens in the fall.

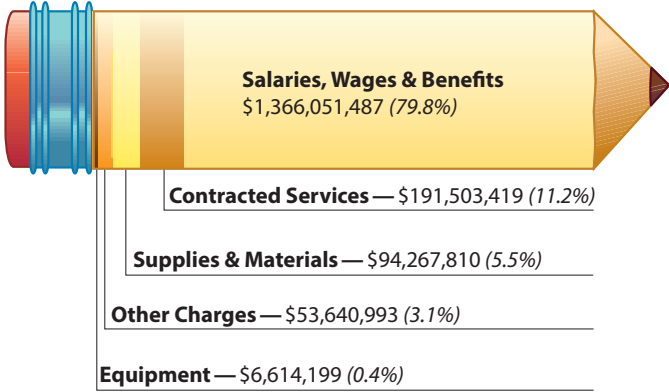
We are also continuing to enhance educational environments for students across our county. We opened three replacement school buildings last fall and will open three new and one replacement building in August. My recommendation to you contains \$12.5 million for more than 127 positions to staff the new Old Mill West High School and West County Elementary School, as well as \$3 million to open the New Village Academy Public Charter School. We will also be opening a new building for students and staff at Old Mill Middle South as part of the multi-year Old Mill Master Plan.

The days, weeks, and months that lie ahead in this budget process will be filled with discussions about the worthiness of projects both inside our school system and outside of it. My job—and now this Board's job—is to advocate for what we need as an educational entity, remaining fully aware that we are but one piece in a very large county puzzle.

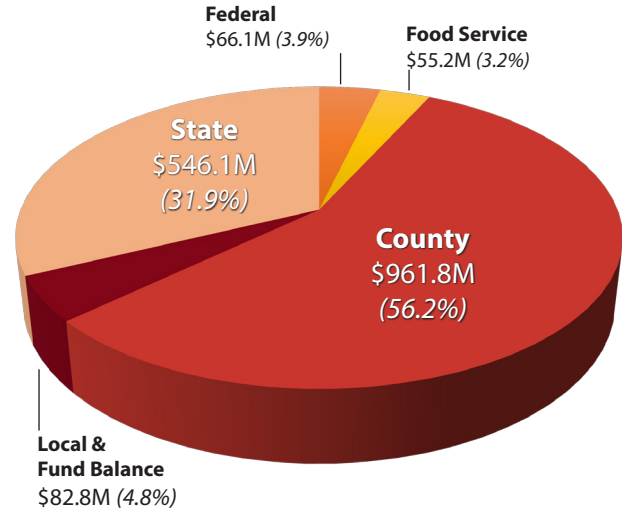
Mark T. Bedell
Mark T. Bedell, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools



Budget Breakdown



Revenue



Recommendations

Compensation and Benefit Increases	\$60,475,834
Contractual Obligations & Commitments	19,502,916
Blueprint Mandates	5,762,058
ESSER Funding Cliff	7,550,319
Enhancements for Student Achievement	5,141,081
Unrestricted Operating Budget Change	\$98,432,208
Restricted Grant Funds	(\$40,799,800)
Internal Service — Healthcare	3,553,600
Food Service Funds	—
Restricted Operating Budget Change	(\$37,246,200)
Net Change in FY2024 Superintendent's Recommended Budget	\$61,186,008
FY2025 Superintendent's Recommended Operating Budget	\$1,712,077,908

Blueprint for Maryland's Future

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future is landmark legislation adopted into law that is intended to transform Maryland's early childhood, primary, and secondary education system to the levels of high-performing systems around the world so that Maryland's education system:

- 1. Provides its students with instruction and skills set to international standards that will enable them to be successful in the 21st-Century economy and productive citizens of the State.
- 2. Gives its children access to educational experiences and opportunities beginning in early childhood that enable them to reach their full promise and potential and be ready for success in college and a rewarding career by the end of high school.
- 3. Elevates overall student performance to be among the world's best and eliminates achievement and opportunity gaps between students with respect to family incomes, races, ethnicities, abilities and disabilities, and other defining characteristics.

To accomplish this mission the legislation outlines four policy areas under which Districts would organize and operate:

- 1. Early Childhood Education
- 2. High-Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders
- 3. College and Career Readiness Pathways
- 4. More Resources to Ensure all Students are Successful

The FY2025 Superintendent's Recommended Budget is requesting funding to support these policy areas:

1. Early Childhood Education

Significant expansion of full-day Prekindergarten, to be free for all low-income 3- and 4- year-olds, so that all children can begin Kindergarten ready to learn.

Recommendation:

- \$784,000 for three 4-year-old Prekindergarten classes

2. High-Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders

Raising the standards and status of the teaching profession, including a performance-based career ladder and salaries comparable to other fields with similar education requirements.

Recommendations:

- \$60.5 million in compensation enhancements, which includes:
 - a step or step equivalent for all eligible employees.
 - a 3% COLA for all employees.
 - an increase in AACPS's health care contribution.



3. College and Career Readiness Pathways

An internationally benchmarked curriculum that enables most students to achieve "college-and career-ready" status by the end of 10th grade and then pursue pathways that include early college access, Advanced Placement courses, and/or a rigorous technical education leading to industry-recognized credentials and high-paying jobs.

Recommendation:

- \$17 million to continue Career Counseling in coordination with the Anne Arundel Workforce Development Center, College and Career Readiness Programs, and the Transitional Supplemental Instruction program.

4. More Resources to Ensure all Students are Successful

Broad and sustained new supports for schools serving high concentrations of students living in poverty, with before-and after-school and summer academic programs, academic enrichment opportunities, student access to needed health and social services, increased support for English Learner, and Special Education students.

Recommendations:

- \$7.9 million to expand existing and add new Community Schools.
- \$607,000 to fund seven positions to meet the needs of our English Language Development students.
- \$15.5 million to open Old Mill West High School, West County Elementary School, and New Village Academy Public Charter School.
- \$3.2 million for 24.5 positions to support social and emotional needs.
- \$4.7 million for 56.4 special education positions.

ESSER Grants

Beginning with the 2020–2021 school year, the federal government has supported school districts across the nation with supplemental funds to prepare to operate under COVID-related restrictions and mitigation efforts. Some of these have included programs and services related to:

- increases in technology hardware, software, and training.
- social emotional supports for students.
- summer programming.

While we will not continue many of the programs and services we implemented with these funds, there are many we believe are critical to the continued success of our students. As this federal funding comes to an end, we need to continue to move these funds into our Operating Budget.

Recommendations:

- \$5.4 million to support technology critical to the one-to-one student/device ratio, laptops for staff, infrastructure critical to operational efficiency and a learning management system.
- \$2.2 million to provide class coverage when substitutes are not available.

