Recommended FY2021 Capital Budget Priority

1. Health & Safety '21 $1,200,000
2. Security Related Upgrades '21 3,750,000
3. All Day K and Pre-K Additions '21 9,000,000
4. Building Systems Rem. '22 (Systemics) 20,500,000
5. Maintenance Backlog Reduction '21 7,000,000
6. Roof Replacement '21 3,000,000
7. Relocatable Classroom '21 1,500,000
8. Asbestos Abatement '21 600,000
9. Barrier Free Access '21 350,000
10. School Bus Replacement '21 800,000
11. Additions 11,000,000
12. Edgewood ES — Construction 5,565,000
13. Tyler Heights ES — Construction 4,754,000
15. Quarterfield ES — Design/Construction 18,379,000
16. Hillsmere ES — Design/Construction 15,237,000
17. Rippling Woods ES — Design/Construction 21,872,000
18. Old Mill West ES — Construction 68,352,000
19. West County ES — Design 3,028,000
20. Old Mill MS South — Feasibility Study/Design 4,008,000
21. Health Room Modifications '21 350,000
22. School Furniture '21 500,000
23. Upgrade Various Schools '21 800,000
24. Vehicle Replacement '21 400,000
25. Agin Schools '21 600,000
26. TIMS Electrical Upgrade '21 175,000
27. Playground Equipment Improvements '21 300,000
28. Athletic Stadium Improvements '21 2,500,000
29. Driveway and Parking Lot Improvements '21 1,000,000
30. PS Military Installation Grant 4,000,000

Total FY2021 Recommended Capital Budget $214,892,000

When I think about the obligation that we, as a school system, have to the nearly 85,000 children we serve every day, three words come to mind: opportunity, intentionality, and impact. It is only through the creation of opportunities, carried out with intentionality, that we can have the positive impacts on children that they deserve and that our parents and community expect.

My $1.36 billion operating budget recommendation aims to expand on the opportunities we create for students. It represents an $84.7 million increase from our current budget, with $34.4 million of that — 41 percent — dedicated to compensation enhancements for our incredible employees. While negotiations with employee bargaining units must still be completed, that amount is sufficient to provide the equivalent of a step increase for all eligible employees, a 2 percent cost-of-living increase for all employees, and a back step for all eligible employees who were in an eligible bargaining unit or position in the 2011-2012 school year as we continue to make inroads on this vital issue.

More than 91 percent of the new positions in this budget are for people who have daily contact with our children. I am recommending 195 classroom teaching positions to address ongoing enrollment increases — we are educating 1,700 more students this year than we did a year ago — and 57 positions for the first phase of staffing the new Crofton High School. Additionally, this budget contains funding for 20 teaching assistants and permanent substitute positions, 11.2 cultural arts teaching positions, two elementary reading/language arts teachers, and two internship teachers. Also included in the staffing request are 18 assistant principals as part of our ongoing plan to put assistant principals at all elementary schools, and 6.5 sorely needed school-basedsecretary positions.

To continue to help address the needs of our growing number of English Learners and their families, this budget contains funding for 10 English Language Acquisition teachers and five bilingual teaching assistants, as well as two additional bilingual facilitators.

We have also seen significant growth in the number of students with special and alternative education needs, and this budget includes 73.3 new positions to help address those needs. This number includes 32.8 positions in our comprehensive schools and 19.4 positions at our specialty sites. It also includes 6.5 positions to facilitate accommodations in accordance with student Section 504 plans and another 6.6 positions to open a therapeutic elementary school program that will allow us to better address the growing number of young students who are exhibiting challenging behaviors.

As we continue to do what we can to address the social and emotional needs of our students, I have included $1.4 million for 14 new positions that include nine additional school counselors, two additional school psychologists, and an additional social worker.
South Shore Elementary School third-grade teacher Teresa Belisle was named the 2019–2020 Maryland Teacher of the Year in September by the Maryland State Department of Education. Belisle, who was named AACPS’ Teacher of the Year last April, is the fourth AACPS teacher to win the state honor. AACPS has had a finalist for the state award in five consecutive years and seven of the last nine years.

Jodi Risse, AACPS’ Supervisor of Food and Nutrition Services for Anne Arundel County Public Schools, earned a national award in August for her leadership efforts to reduce instances of childhood hunger. Risse was named a 2019 Summer Meals Hero by the national anti-hunger campaign No Kid Hungry. Under Risse’s leadership, AACPS operates a summer Farmer’s Market at Brooklyn Park Middle School to offer fresh fruits and vegetables and resources from a host of governmental agencies. The summer meals program also features a “mobile meals” component through which meals are transported to communities and given to children. AACPS also operates 58 summer meals sites that offer free meals to children ages 2 to 18 throughout the county.

Members of the Class of 2018 who took the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) last year scored 30 points higher than their counterparts who graduated a year earlier. The composite score for county students was 1,101 points, 35 points higher than public school students across Maryland. The mean score for county students on the English/Reading/Writing portion of the assessment was 556 points, 15 points higher than a year ago and 18 points higher than the mean for Maryland students. The mean score on the math portion of the assessment also rose by 15 points, to 545. That is 17 points higher than the average state score. The largest gain in mean scores among student groups was made by Hispanic students, whose scores rose by 40 points (23 on the English portion and 17 on the math portion). Mean scores for African-American students rose by 13 points in math and 12 points in English.

Tim Stedman of Northeast High School and Christie Payne of Crofton Middle School were named the 2019 High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year and Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year, respectively, by SHAPE Maryland in November. Stedman has taught in Anne Arundel County Public Schools for 13 years and currently serves as the physical education department chair and assistant athletic director at Northeast. Payne has taught in Anne Arundel County Public Schools for 7 years, spending six at Marley Middle School before moving to Crofton Middle this year.

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Fourteen Anne Arundel County public school students were named 2018–2019 All-State Dancers, ranking them among the 25 best in the state. The All-State dancers were selected through audition by a panel of professional dancers and college/university dance faculty based on technique, musicality, professionalism, performance, attitude, and likelihood of future success in dance.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools’ graduation rate reached a record level for the Class of 2018 and is the highest among Maryland’s five largest jurisdictions. AACPS’ graduation rate of 89.20 percent, which reflects the percentage of students who graduated within five years of starting high school, is 0.67 percentage points higher than for the Class of 2017. It is also more than a full percentage point above the state average. Since 2011, the graduation rate gap between African-American and white students has narrowed since 2011 from 8.3 to 5.7 percent.

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools’ District of Food and Nutrition Services earned an “A” grade from Healthy School Food Maryland (HFSM), a parent and student organization that advocates for healthy and nutritious meal offerings for students. AACPS’ grade is just one of two “A” grades given by HFSM.

On the heels of a highly successful Unity Day in the 2018–2019 school year, AACPS expanded opportunities for those involved with schools and those in other areas of the county workforce to take part in visible anti-bullying efforts that emphasize kindness, acceptance, and inclusion and launched Project Unity in the 2019–2020 school year. All schools and school system offices took part in Unity Day 2019, an initiative of the National Bullying Prevention Center designed to visibly show commitments to behaviors and mindsets that eliminate hate and bullying. In October, three additional Project Unity days are schedule throughout the year, and staff professional development will be designed to align with this initiative.

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