

SECTION 3
GOALS, STANDARDS, AND
GUIDELINES

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

MISSION, SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BELIEFS, AND GOALS

CORE STATEMENT

Carroll County Public Schools: Building the Future

CORE VALUES

- The Pursuit of Excellence
- Life-long Learning and Success
- A Safe and Orderly Learning Environment
- Community Participation
- Fairness, Honesty, and Respect
- Continuous Improvement
- Reflecting the priorities, beliefs, and mores of our local community

CORE BELIEFS

The Board of Education believes that the Carroll County Public Schools system operates effectively and efficiently when:

The greater Carroll County community:

- Values the importance of a quality education
- Supports educational initiatives at home
- Volunteers in schools
- Forms partnerships with schools to support system initiatives

All central office staff:

- Establish and maintain a framework for organizational decisions to be based on empirical data
- Establish and maintain a safe and orderly environment for students and staff
- Provide adequate resources that are equitably distributed
- Provide an equitable educational opportunity for all students
- Communicate effectively with all stakeholders
- Enforce accountability for system initiatives
- Model effective leadership and professional respect
- Provide a diverse program of studies with a global perspective designed to meet students' educational goals
- Coordinate professional development opportunities that are relevant, site-based, job embedded, aligned with the tenets of cultural proficiency, and meet the needs of all staff
- Empower employees, students, and communities to make school-based decisions within an established framework.

All school staff:

- Welcome their school community
- Establish positive home and school relationships
- Provide a safe and orderly learning environment for students and staff
- Work to ensure that every child succeeds
- Display cultural proficiency
- Prepare students with a global education
- Place priority on the educational needs of students
- Motivate students to learn
- Recognize the unique learning styles of each student
- Facilitate learning by encouraging, prompting, and interacting with students
- Establish and maintain positive and appropriate relationships with students
- Ensure learning by providing instruction that meets each student's individual needs
- Support student success
- Encourage students to make choices that provide challenges
- Assess student progress through both formal and informal methods and then provide appropriate and targeted data-driven instruction
- Engage students in rigorous and relevant instruction

All students:

- Enroll in coursework that prepares them to be career – college ready
- Obtain the skills to thrive as independent 21st century learners
- Become knowledgeable, responsible, and caring citizens
- Demonstrate respect for the learning environment and other individuals
- Reach their potential
- Develop effective communication, interpersonal, and leadership skills
- Participate in varied co-curricular and extracurricular activities

**CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STRATEGIC PLANNING PILLARS**

I. PROVIDE MULTIPLE PATHWAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Upon graduation, Carroll County Public Schools students will be college and career ready. The variety of course options found in the CCPS program of studies empowers students to meet the educational prerequisites to enter an institution of higher learning, the military, or the work force. Targeted interventions, alternative placements, career connections internships, dual enrollment options, online courses, special education services, gifted and talented services, and differentiated course levels are provided to meet the individual learning needs of students.

II. STRENGTHEN PRODUCTIVE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Carroll County Public Schools' personnel will communicate openly and honestly to foster a trusting and supportive relationship with parents, community members, business partners, and public officials. CCPS strives to create an atmosphere of mutual appreciation and respect for diversity and encourage unity among all students, staff, and community. CCPS welcomes parent and community volunteers to help with the total school program.

III. DEVELOP AND SUPPORT A SUCCESSFUL WORKFORCE

Carroll County Public Schools will hire and retain highly qualified and skilled employees who are dedicated to the success of our school system and students. Employees can expect to be supervised by experts in their field who provide timely and relevant professional development opportunities and feedback designed to promote their effectiveness and success. CCPS values a high performing and diverse workforce who contribute to a positive educational experience for all students.

IV. ESTABLISH SAFE, SECURE, HEALTHY, AND MODERN LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Carroll County Public Schools recognizes that the safety and well-being of our students and staff is our highest priority. Students, parents, and CCPS employees can expect policies, procedures, and programs to be implemented that promote a safe and orderly environment in school, on school grounds, and on school buses, as well as programs that promote healthy life style choices and social and emotional well-being. CCPS strives to provide up-to-date facilities, technologies, equipment, and instructional materials appropriate for a modern learning environment.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

The Carroll County Public Schools provide a general educational program for all eligible students of the county, beginning with Prekindergarten and continuing through a comprehensive high school program. In addition, special educational opportunities are available to those potential students who need such attention, beginning with early intervention (pre-school) and continuing through age 21.

The Elementary School Program is described as a "developmental program" beginning with kindergarten, and continuing through grade 5. Current grade level alignment is K-5 for all elementary schools with the exception of Parr's Ridge (K-grade 2) and Mt. Airy (grades 3-5). Prekindergarten is offered at 20 of our elementary schools. This model includes either a half-day or full-day model. An extensive course of study with prescribed goals for each grade level is published by the school system. Students are regularly assessed on their progress through the Carroll County Public Schools reporting system.

Although students are grouped and regrouped according to their achievement level, the basic class activities involve one teacher and about 23 pupils in a flexible classroom setting. Special instructors provide direct instruction in art, music, media, physical education, health, reading, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), advanced academics, and special education services.

The Middle School Program for students in grades 6-8 is often described as a "transitional program" between elementary and high school. Students are instructed in interdisciplinary teams composed of four or five teachers each teaching a specific discipline. Students are exposed to a progressively more rigorous program of studies instructed by teachers who specialize in science, social studies, language arts, reading and mathematics. Students participate in exploratory programs in fine and practical arts. Appropriate support programs are available to identified students in the area of their specific needs. Advance academic programs are provided at each grade level for students who demonstrate an ability to be successful in a more rigorous program.

The High School Program for students in grades 9-12 is comprehensive; each student has the opportunity to supplement the basic core of courses that constitute the Maryland High School Diploma graduation requirements. As a part of the diploma requirement (25 credits in a balance of pre-determined fields of study), students must satisfy assessment requirements in Algebra, English, Government and Biology and also demonstrate competence in areas of human activity as defined by the Maryland State Department of Education. Students in the fields of the arts and physical education, the World of Work, and Survival Skills, must participate in an approved program. They must also either meet the credit entrance requirements for the University of Maryland, and/or successfully finish a state-approved career completer program. Within each high school, intervention and support programs for diverse learners are also available.

Career and Technical Education

The mission for the system of Career and Technical Education (CTE) for Carroll County is to prepare all students for further education and careers. Learners are prepared to begin careers and pursue lifelong learning through a process of career development, rigorous academic instruction, specific technical skills development, and work experience in order to meet their personal needs for further education and workforce preparation. In order to achieve this mission, CTE programs are offered in middle schools, high schools, a career and technology center, and one alternative school. Students are introduced to CTE programs in the middle schools through the Family and Consumer Sciences and Technology Education curriculum. High school students are offered opportunities in CTE programs in the following occupational areas:

Career and Technical Education Courses offered at Comprehensive High Schools		
Accounting	Computer Science	Interactive Media Production
Administrative Services	Digital Fabrication and Manufacturing	Marketing
Agricultural Sciences - Animal (Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education)	Early Childhood Education	Print Production*
Agricultural Sciences - Natural Resources (Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education)	Education - Middle and High School** (Teacher Academy of MD)	Textiles and Fashion Careers*
Agricultural Sciences - Plant (Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education)	Financial Services** (Academy of Finance)	Video Production*
Business Administration & Management	Food Service and Hospitality Management (ProStart)	
* Introductory classes of these programs are offered at comprehensive high schools. Students who wish to continue in the program go to higher level classes offered at a centralized location.		
** Offered at Westminster HS as a regional program		
Carroll County Career and Technology Center Programs		
Academy of Health Professions	Collision Repair Technology	Heavy Equipment and Truck Technology
Applied Mechanical Engineering	Cosmetology Careers	Homeland Security: Criminal Justice
Auto Service Technology	Culinary Arts: Baking and Pastry	Homeland Security: Geographic Information Systems and Technology
Biomedical Sciences (Project Lead the Way)	Culinary Arts: Professional Cooking	Masonry
Building Maintenance	Drafting	Print Production
Carpentry	Electrical Construction	Textiles and Fashion Careers
Cisco Networking Academy: Cybersecurity	Engineering (Project Lead the Way)	Video Production
Cisco Networking Academy: Cyber Operations	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning	Welding Technology

Special Education Services

Carroll County Public Schools provides Special Education programs and services to all eligible children with disabilities (from birth through their twenty-first birthday) who reside in the county. Special Education services include diagnostic, instructional, and related services. Programs and services are provided on a continuum ranging from consultation with regular education teachers, up through residential placement seven days a week. These programs and services are designed to ensure that appropriate programs are available to all children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment for each child. This is determined based upon the child's unique needs and not program availability.

Early Childhood Services - In order to meet the needs of children who are not old enough to attend Kindergarten in Carroll County Public Schools, there are two early intervention programs offered for children in need of special education services. These programs are:

Infants and toddlers: Ages 0-3: Children and their families receive services in their natural environments within a twelve-month programming cycle based upon an approved Individual Family Service Plan. The domains of health, cognition, communication, and mobility are addressed.

Preschool: Ages 3-5: Children with disabilities receive services in the least restrictive environment in which their Individual Education Plans (IEP) can be implemented. Some students continue to receive supports through an Extended Family Individual Service Plan. IEP services include specially designed instruction in a variety of areas delivered through itinerant services in the home, private/community preschool, or in a CCPS Pre-Kindergarten classroom. Students who require a special education preschool setting are provided services at one of the five elementary special education regional centers or Carroll Springs School.

School Age Services - Once a child is old enough to attend Kindergarten, special education services are typically delivered in that student's geographic home school. Special Education and related services include specially designed instruction in areas like academics, communication, behavior, gross motor, fine motor, sensory, vision, hearing, and counseling. These services are provided across a continuum of environments. Special education services are always provided in the least restrictive environment possible. Examples of these environments include the general education classroom, a combination of the general education classroom and the special education classroom, and the special education classroom. For some students whose needs cannot be met in the home school, regional programs like the Autism Program, BEST Program, and the Learning for Independence Program are available. The Learning for Independence Program is regionalized at the elementary level and is available at each middle school (with the exception of East Middle) and each high school. More restrictive placements, like non-public placements, are available to students.

Elementary age students whose needs and IEP require extensive services outside of general education may receive special education services in a Structured Learning Environment or Learning for Independence classroom. In order to maximize both staff and classroom resources, these students may receive services at one of the five elementary special education regional centers. The following elementary schools are the regional centers for these services: Carrolltowne, Hampstead, Robert Moton, Runnymede, and Winfield.

Elementary age students that require specialized behavioral and counseling services as detailed in an IEP may participate in the countywide Behavioral Educational Support Team (BEST) program which is located at Robert Moton Elementary school.

Middle and High school students whose needs and IEP require that they are placed in a Structured Learning Environment or Learning for Independence class receive most or all of their specially designed instruction within a special education classroom. These services are provided at the student's home school (with the exception of Learning for Independence at East Middle School).

Middle Schools students that require specialized behavioral and counseling services as detailed in an IEP may participate in the countywide BEST middle school program which is located at East Middle school.

High School students that require specialized behavioral and counseling services as detailed in an IEP may participate in the countywide BEST high school program located at Westminster High School.

Students with Autism whose needs cannot be met in their home schools may participate in the Autism Program. Eligible three and four year olds may attend the Preschool Autism Program at Carroll Springs School. Eligible elementary students may attend the Autism Programs at Hampstead and Winfield Elementary. Eligible middle school students may attend the Autism Program at Shiloh Middle School. Eligible high school students may attend the Autism Program at Winters Mill High School.

Carroll Springs School is the public separate day school within Carroll County for students with profound disabilities for whom the IEP Team has determined that services must be provided in this education environment.

For students with needs that no combination of services and supplementary aids can meet in the home school or in a regional program, services may be provided within a full day non-public setting.

All special education programs in CCPS are non-categorical. The structure of these special programs may be adapted at any time to meet the diverse needs of students as determined by the IEP team.

Post-Secondary Services – CCPS has five post-secondary programs collectively referred to as the Transition Connections Academy. The Transition Connections Academy was designed to provide additional learning opportunities, more importantly, work-based learning experiences beyond students' four years in high school. The Academy is open to students with significant disabilities, ages 18 to 21. Academy placement is an IEP team decision based on each student's educational needs and level of independence. The Academy was designed in collaboration with a variety of community partners to provide the best possible learning opportunities for students. Our partners include Carroll Community College, Carroll Hospital, McDaniel College, Division of Rehabilitation Services, local community rehabilitation providers, members of the Carroll business community, as well as local government and law enforcement agencies. These partnerships have correlated to post-school success in the areas of independent living, community participation, and employment for students of CCPS.

The Academy is aligned with evidence-based practices, and implemented to increase the number of youth actively engaged in post-secondary activities such as education, technical and career training, and employment after exiting CCPS. All programs focus heavily on enhancing independence and increasing students' individual capacity in the areas of functional academics, independent living, self-determination/self-advocacy, career development and communication and social skills. The anticipated outcome is competitive integrated employment for all students.

The Academy is comprised of the following five seamless transition programs:

Transition Education @ McDaniel (TE@M): TE@M combines classroom instruction with work based learning opportunities on the grounds of McDaniel College. This program is designed for students with a high level of independence since they must be able to navigate the college campus independently. Classes include Academic Support, Communication and Social Skills, Self-Determination, and Career Management.

Transition Education @ Carroll Hospital (TE@CH): TE@CH is designed to provide students with disabilities valuable work experience within a hospital setting. The program is intended for students with the highest level of independence. The anticipated outcome after participation in this program is paid, competitive employment. Instructional time includes classes to support academic skills, communication and social skills, self-determination and self-advocacy and career development.

Seamless Transition @ Carroll Community (ST@CC): ST@CC is a partnership between CCPS and Carroll Community College. The program was developed for students who demonstrate higher levels of independence and are able to participate in on-campus jobs on a rotational basis. Job rotations give students exposure to a variety of work settings allowing them to sharpen skills, as well as identify areas of possible career interests. Classroom instruction focuses on academic skills, self-determination, career development, and communication and social skills.

Transition Opportunities for Personal Growth (TOPS): TOPS is designed for students with a moderate level of independence and is located on the campus of Carroll Springs School. The anticipated outcome after participation in this program is at least part-time competitive employment with minimal supports. Classroom instruction focuses on functional academics, career management, communication and social skills, self-determination, residential living skills, personal fitness, computer skills, and work-based experiences.

Community Integration for Transitioning Youth (CITY): CITY is designed for students who need a higher level of support; job coaching support is continual. CITY is a community based program which focuses on functional academics, daily living skills, communication and social skills, and volunteer work-based experiences in an enclave setting. The anticipated outcome after participation in this program is volunteer work-based experiences using an enclave model with full-time supervision.

Alternative Education Services

CCPS is proud to offer a variety of programs that are designed to assist students who have not been successful in a traditional, comprehensive school setting. Students attend Alternative Education programs for a variety of reasons including Voluntary Placements, Superintendent Transfers, Extended Suspension and Administrative Placements. The goal of all alternative education programs is to teach students academic, social/emotional, and behavioral skills that will improve their educational success and lead to a successful transition back to his/her comprehensive school.

Crossroads Middle – Crossroads Middle is an alternative educational setting designed to facilitate the educational progress of middle school students who have demonstrated difficulties in the areas of behavioral and emotional adjustment in the traditional school setting. The goal is to return students to their comprehensive home schools. Students receive academic instruction and counseling services to improve school achievement. Classrooms are staffed by certified teachers and instructional assistants, who deliver CCPS curriculum and provide academic assistance to the students. School counselors, a school psychologist, an intervention specialist, and other support staff are available and may be assigned to assist students on specific lessons or to help manage and improve behavior. The program is located at Gateway School.

Flexible Student Support – Flexible Student Support provides part-time educational opportunities to high school students who are not meeting with success in their home school, need to take additional courses during the evenings, have withdrawn from school and wish to re-enroll, etc. The program includes:

- Student Support Center – classroom instruction in the evenings
- Distance Learning Lab – independent work on the computer
- Career Research and Development – classroom instruction combined with work experience leading to a completer program.

Gateway School – Gateway School is an alternative educational setting designed to help high school students to develop socially, personally, and intellectually, while assisting them in reaching behavioral and academic success. The goal is to enable students to transition back to their home schools. While enrolled at Gateway School, students are eligible to earn credits that apply toward promotion and graduation. Classrooms are staffed by certified teachers who develop specific assignments, assistance, and requirements for students. Instructional assistants and other support staff are also on duty and may be assigned to assist students on specific lessons or to help manage and improve behavior.

Positive Response to Issues of Discipline with Elementary Students (PRIDE) Program – PRIDE is an elementary behavioral intervention program; part of the CCPS general education continuum of supports. PRIDE is designed to help students gain self-control and insight into their behavior in order to reduce disruptive behaviors and increase positive school behavior/adjustment and achievement. PRIDE is also designed to provide parents with the supports needed to initiate and maintain productive changes in their homes. The goal of the PRIDE program is to equip students and families with the skillset to return to their comprehensive home schools. Students receive instruction aligned with CCPS curriculum at their instructional level. Students also receive instruction in behavior management through a structured behavior support system and direct teaching of social skills. PRIDE is supported by CCPS teachers, assistants, a school psychologist,

and an intervention specialist at a ratio of approximately 3:1. The program is located in a portable classroom building at Friendship Valley Elementary.

Supplemental Educational Services

The diversity of our student population requires that supplemental services be provided to maximize every student's opportunity to be successful. A variety of local, state, and federally funded programs are provided help students access to learning experiences tailored to meet their unique needs.

Prekindergarten - Carroll County Public Schools offers a full-day prekindergarten program at the following twelve elementary schools: Cranberry Station*, Ebb Valley, Elmer Wolfe*, Friendship Valley, Hampstead, Parr's Ridge, Robert Moton*, Runnymede, Spring Garden, Taneytown*, Westminster, and William Winchester. Full-day Prekindergarten programs at four of these schools are partially funded through the MSDE Early Learning Expansion Grant.

In addition, CCPS currently offers half-day (a.m.) sessions at the following eight elementary schools: Carrolltowne, Eldersburg, Linton Springs, Manchester, Mechanicsville, Piney Ridge, Sandymount and Winfield.

Title I - Title I is a federally funded program designed to ensure all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. Title I funds are used to provide supplementary educational services to students, professional development for staff, and opportunities that foster family engagement. During the 2021-2022 school year, Elmer Wolfe Elementary School, Robert Moton Elementary School, and Taneytown Elementary School are identified as Title I schools based on the percentage of students who qualify for free and reduced meals. Each school provides a Schoolwide Title I Program.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) - Carroll County Public Schools offers specialized instructional services to students in grades PreK-12 whose native language is not English and meet program requirements. These services are provided by an ESOL Resource Teacher at the student's home school.

Gifted and Talented Education Program – Effective July 1, 2012, COMAR requires that each school system provide specific gifted and talented (GT) services to identified students in grades K – 12. In Carroll County, students are identified as gifted and talented beginning in the third grade and services are provided by a GT Resource Teacher. Students in grades K – 2 who exhibit GT behaviors may also receive supplemental services from the GT resource teacher. Middle school students who are identified as gifted and talented participate in supplemental learning activities during a “flex mod” class scheduled during the school day. High school GT students have the opportunity to tailor a four year learning plan to specific needs and talents. This plan may include advanced placement courses which will lead them to advanced post-secondary career and college opportunities.

Judy Center Early Learning Hubs – Judy Center Early Learning Hubs provide comprehensive early care and education services for young children and their families to promote continuous improvement toward school readiness. Each Judy Center is partially funded by the Judith P. Hoyer

Early Childhood Education Enhancement grant program in Maryland, serving children birth through 5 years. A Judy Center Early Learning Hub is located at Robert Moton Elementary (administrative office), Taneytown Elementary, and Elmer Wolfe Elementary.

SCHOOL CAMPUS CONCEPT

Several school systems throughout the State of Maryland have taken advantage of the School Campus Concept as they have built new schools to accommodate their student populations. The School Campus Concept refers to the situation where an elementary and middle school; or a middle school and high school; or even an elementary, middle, and high school might be physically contiguous.

School systems in Maryland utilizing the School Campus Concept include, but are not limited to Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery, Frederick, and Washington County. In some of these systems, different levels of schools (e.g., elementary and middle in Howard County) may actually be housed within the same facility.

Advantages to School Campus Concept arrangements include:

- a. Improved articulation and transition between school levels.
- b. Advanced study opportunities.
- c. Cafeteria proximity fosters satelliting.
- d. Sharing facilities (e.g., larger high school gym and/or auditorium) for special program needs.
- e. Department chairpersons and faculties work closely in coordinated program and curricular offerings.
- f. Use of athletic fields and facilities.
- g. Older students may be used as tutors and mentors.
- h. Enhances opportunities for cultural programs.
- i. Improves efficiency of support services such as transportation and itinerant staff.
- j. Generally enhances communication and benefits to the students and community.
- k. Land acquisition costs should be reduced.

Disadvantages to this arrangement often relate to the mixing of age groups during non-school hours particularly where high school students may venture onto a middle or elementary campus and/or where students are driving and additional safety/parking problems might arise.

The continuation of the school campus concept, where more than one school is located on a campus, should be viewed as an acceptable practice as we address the need for planning new facilities and the procurement of future school sites in the next decade.

4/18/88

SCHOOL COMMUNITY CONCEPT

In addition to, and in direct correlation with, the feeder school concept is the community based school concept. In years past, each town had its own school because growth in Carroll County centered around the various municipalities. As population has increased, school sites have been acquired in areas of current and projected growth. In some cases, this has meant a new community school while, in other cases, the older community school has been abandoned or modified.

Currently, the Carroll County Master Plan calls for controlled growth limiting major development to those areas of the county with available water and sewer. As a result, increases in population will continue to center around those municipalities and planned growth environs having public water and sewer.

Plans for the placement of new or replacement schools throughout the county should take into consideration the Carroll County Master Plan objectives. Although the desire for community schools exists, the driving forces behind the selection of school sites should be the Master Plan, projected school enrollment and recommended grade organization. The majority of the municipalities in Carroll County which have historically had schools within their community will continue to have schools because they are in planned growth areas with water and sewer.

4/6/88

SCHOOL SITE STANDARDS

The selection criteria for school sites in Carroll County includes generally accepted standards for the size of each school campus. Older facilities throughout the county do not enjoy the benefit of the current standards and in some cases; campuses are significantly smaller than currently desired.

Extensive use of school facilities and grounds by the Department of Recreation and Parks contributes significantly to the justification for these standards. Additionally, it must be stressed that these size guidelines are defined as usable acreage for buildings, roadways, parking, and playfields. Recent environmental mandates and policies, including afforestation, reforestation, wetland delineation, and stormwater management, and the widely variable topography and geology in Carroll County, may increase the total size of the required acreage substantially.

Elementary School Sites: Until 1953, the guideline for elementary school sites was five (5) acres plus an additional acre for each hundred students to be accommodated (i.e., a 300-student elementary school required eight (8) acres). By current national guidelines an elementary site requirement should be calculated at 15 acres plus an additional acre for each 100 students to be ultimately accommodated, plus additional space for recreational use by the community, if such use is desired.

Middle School Sites: The guideline for middle school sites is twenty (20) acres plus an additional acre per hundred students. At 750 students, a middle school site should include at least 28 usable acres for buildings and fields.

High School Sites: The guideline for high schools is 40 acres plus an additional acre for each hundred students; at 1,200 students, the site needed for a senior high school would be 52 acres.

Physical features such as wetlands, and man-made features such as stormwater management facilities, while not part of the usable acreage, may be considered for use as environmental education tools on the school campus.

6/6/94

**Board Policies and Administrative Regulations Incorporated in the
Educational Facilities Master Plan**

Policy FA – Development of Educational Facilities Master Plan and Six Year Capital Improvement Program (<https://www.carrollk12.org/boe/Pages/Policies.aspx>)

Policy FB- Adequate Facilities (<https://www.carrollk12.org/boe/Pages/Policies.aspx>)

Policy JCAA – Boundary Adjustments (<https://www.carrollk12.org/boe/Pages/Policies.aspx>)

Policy EEA – Eligibility for School Bus Transportation
(<https://www.carrollk12.org/boe/Pages/Policies.aspx>)

