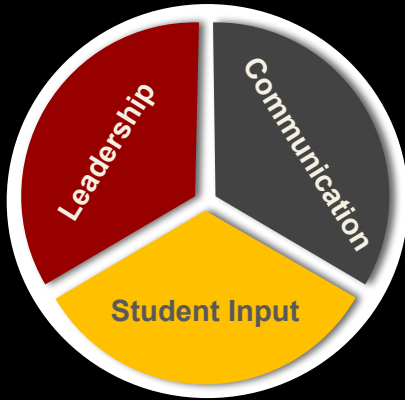


Welcome!



SSLAC

The Superintendent's Student Leadership Advisory Council

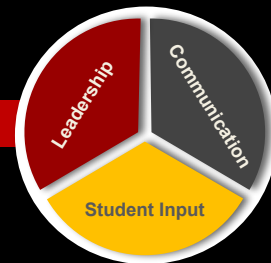


April 23, 2025

To seek student input for school system leadership to address the needs and issues facing students.



AGENDA



Student Leadership

Exploring your role as school leaders

Student Input

Seeking your ideas and input about issues

Communication

Facilitating conversation and sharing information

Welcome

Yearly reflection

Superintendent's Update

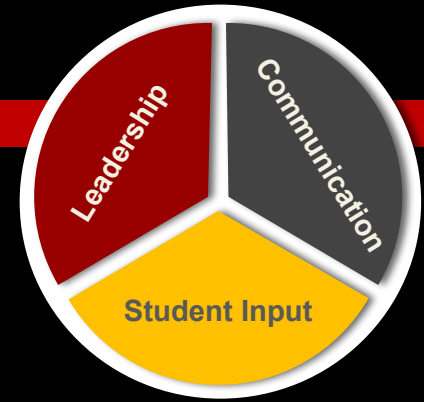
Discussion with System Leaders

Back to school messaging

Closure and Next Steps



Welcome and Overview



Dr. J. Scott Smith
Superintendent of Schools

Hannah Heisler
Student Member of the Board

Dr. Jeffrey Maher
Chief Strategic Officer

Sarah Lorek
Supervisor of Strategic Initiatives

Thank you to Steering Committee Members

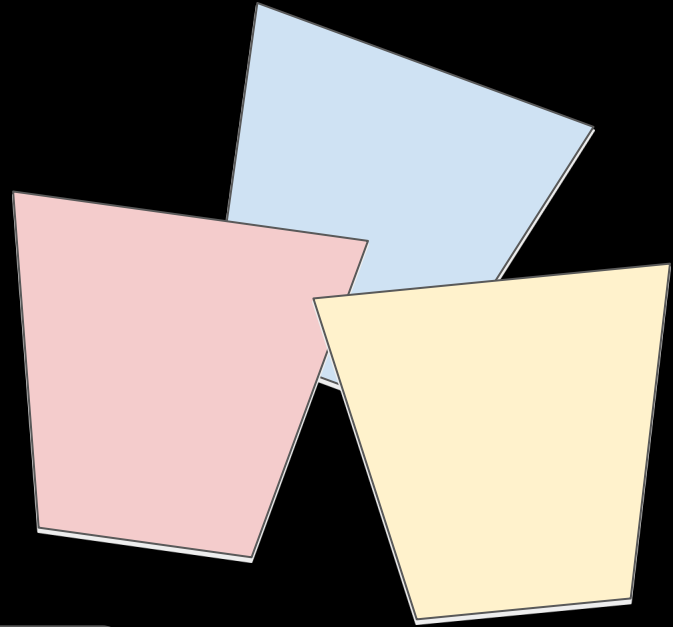


Summer Bucket List

Thinking forward to...

- This last quarter of school
- This summer
- Next school year
- The broader future

What is on your bucket list?



- Write your idea on a sticky note
- Post to one of the posters
- Gather at the poster
- Discuss what action you need to take to make it happen



Elevator Pitch

- What is an elevator pitch?
 - A quick, 30–60 second intro that tells you audience about a topic, the important ideas, and what you're aiming for.
- Why use it?
 - It's great practice to prepare for public speaking engagements, interviews, etc.
- Structure -
 - Who you are
 - What's your goal
 - What you need to achieve that goal
 - Steering committee will give an example!

With a partner (or two) at your table, share an Elevator Pitch on what you hope to accomplish from one of your “Summer Bucket List” goals.



Student Voice

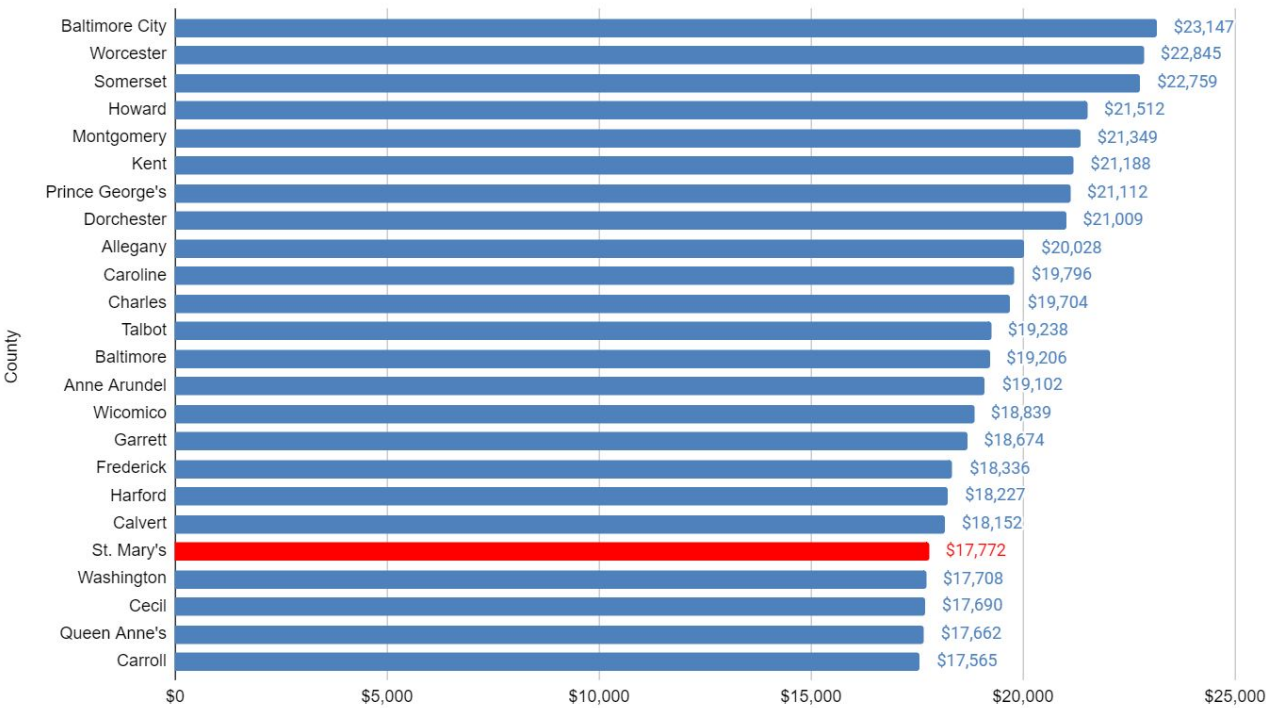


<https://www.youtube.com/live/iMCbGsQUQuw?si=2aE4o2RwQCBBtAJr&t=3912>



Per Pupil Allocation FY 2025

Per Pupil Allocation State & Local 2025



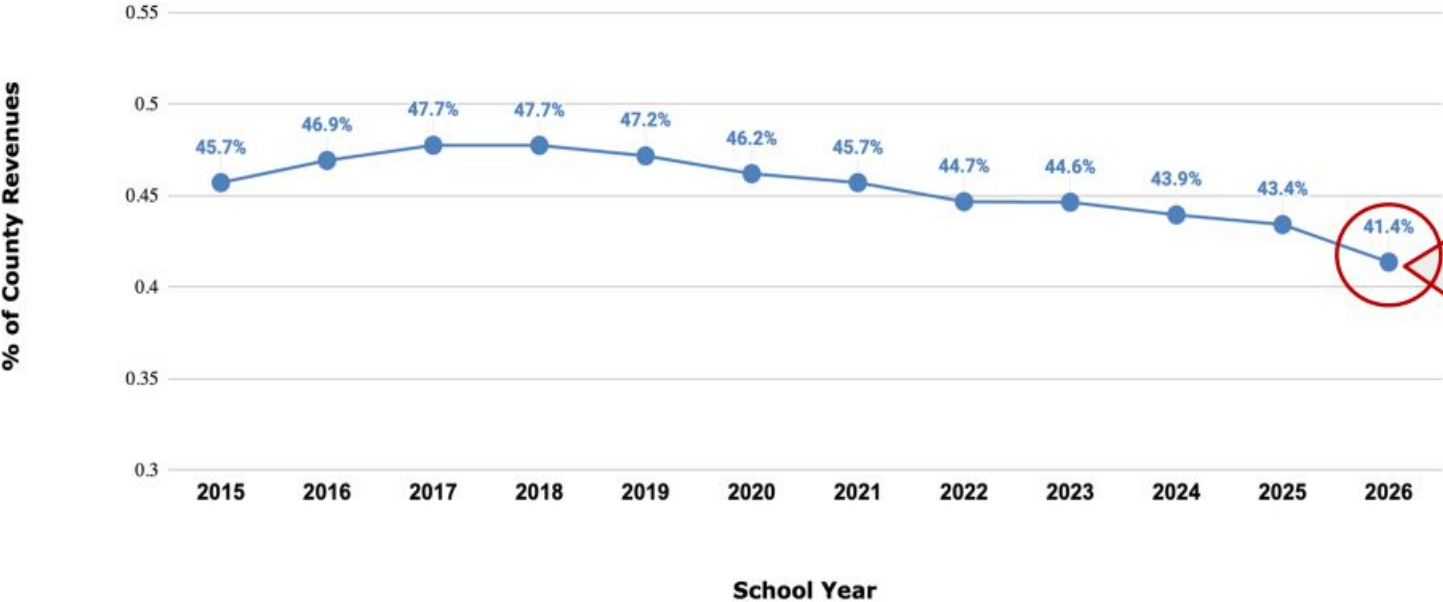
SMCPS is \$207 from the bottom of PPA and \$5,375 from the top



Source: Maryland Department of Legislative Services

St. Mary's County Revenue and the Percentage Provided Public Schools

SMCPS Funding as a Percentage of County Revenues



If the FY2026 funding proposed for SMCPS by the CSMC were maintained at the current percentage of 43.4%, that would equate to a **\$6.6m increase.**







Demographics – History

Fiscal Year	Population	Income Tax Rate	Propetry Tax Rate	County FTE's	Sheriff FTE's	BOE Unrestricted FTE's
2020	113,777	3.17%	0.8478	469.00	329.25	1,995.85
2021	114,568	3.17%	0.8478	467.00	329.25	1,996.87
2022	114,887	3.10%	0.8478	507.75	365.00	1,995.66
2023	115,281	3.00%	0.8478	585.85	373.00	2,018.18
2024	116,611	3.00%	0.8478	623.65	382.00	2,096.02
2025	117,473	3.20%	0.8478	628.40	382.00	2,096.02
2026 Proposed	116,277	3.20%	0.8478	633.90	382.00	2,086.02

Questions and Insights on Demographics and FTEs

Is income tax rate tied to population increase?

How much of the tax collected goes to education?

Has funding gone down from federal and state dollars, too?

The county increased only 3,000 people,

The county increased its staff by 164 (35%)

The sheriff increased its staff by 53 (16%)

The schools increased its staff by 89 (4%)



Compensation

- One-Step Merit Increase – 2.5% Anniversary
- Cost-of-Living Adjustment – 1% July 1st
- Top of Grade Sworn Employees – 2.5% Stipend
- County Merit Scale Employees – 3.66% July 1st

Questions and Insights on County Government Compensation

How much are teachers getting with this funding?

What is the justification for not funding the school system?

All county employees are getting about a 7.2% raise- on top of previous years raises

Doesn't seem fair if the teachers' salary increases aren't being funded



General Fund Expenditures (in millions)

	FY2025	FY2026
County Departments	\$ 75.6	\$ 87.0
Sheriff Office	66.5	72.9
Other Elected Officials	9.2	10.0
Board of Education	134.4	134.4
Other Boards / State Agencies	19.5	19.2
Debt Service	16.2	16.5
Other / OPEB / Reserves	8.8	8.8
Total	<u>\$ 330.1</u>	<u>\$ 348.9</u>

Questions and Insights on General Fund Expenditures

Is there detail on where the county government funding is being spent?

How did they decide to increase tax rates then develop this budget?

The blanket compensation increase for county employees - was that considered for everyone - such as schools?

How can the commissioners provide themselves funding but make the schools fight for funding for its staff?

Isn't there an impact on school safety when resources are cut to the schools?

It seems like they don't care about us

With all the cuts going on to our schools, there doesn't seem to be the public information about it

This will have big impacts on our class sizes

It is shortsighted to think these cuts do not have an impact on the future- How can we expect future generations to be successful if we don't support education that prepares them for future jobs and careers that serve our communities?

Teachers already work beyond the school day to support students- this will impact students.

Sports and other extracurricular programs help lead to scholarships for students - if we can't support those programs we take away opportunities for students

Budgets have to be made, but the youth's future must be a priority.

Break

5 minutes



Panel with System Directors

Updates from last time

Q&A session

Think time

- What questions came to mind following the last session when you met with system leaders?
- What questions do you have now?



Lunch

30 minutes



Checkerboard Challenge

- There is a secret path across the grid.
- You will move forward, diagonal forward, or sideways (never backward)
- Move one space at a time.
 - You will be told “GO” if you are correct, or buzzed if incorrect.
- If buzzed, go back to the end of the line and let someone else try.
- The challenge is to get the whole group across, following the correct pattern, as quickly as possible.

Additional Rules

- Only 1 person on the board at a time.
- Each player must have a turn before someone can go again.
- Once you begin, team members cannot talk or communicate in any way with each other (e.g., no pointing at correct square, no making noises).



Reflect on this year

What worked well for you as a student this year?

What frustrated you the most?

If you were to redo this school year, what would you do differently?

What was the most important thing you learned this year?

Then discuss: How do these things apply to our work with SSLAC? For you as a student?



Steering Committee

- What is the SSLAC Steering Committee?
- What do we do?
- How often do we meet?
- How can you be on it?



Back to school messaging: Round Table Discussion

As students navigate next year --

What does SMCPS need to prepare and consider for 2025-2026?

What kind of messages can we put out from the schools to make it easier for students to clearly find their path in high school?

Secondly, what can we do as SSLAC next year to help students be more prepared?

And how can we share that with our schools?



Think back to your summer bucket list....

Let's make it achievable.

Give everyone a copy of this document

Brainstorm at your table -- what general areas of interest do you have? How could you implement them this summer?

- Think about things you could focus on to make your summer more enjoyable or to improve yourself as a person
- Don't wait until the last minute to enjoy your summer!
- Plan how to use your time effectively to pursue your goals



Feedback and Next Steps

- Complete [survey](#)
 - *Survey is also in Schoology Group*
- **Graduations - congratulations, seniors!**
 - **5/28 - LHS**
 - **5/29 - GMHS**
 - **5/30 - CHS**

