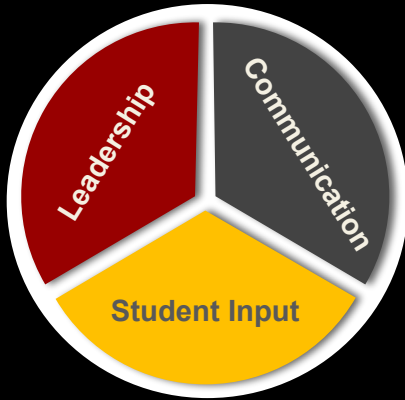


Welcome!



SSLAC

The Superintendent's Student Leadership Advisory Council



February 26, 2025

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



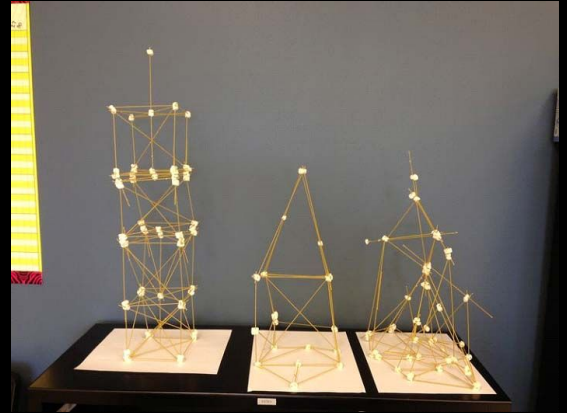
Marshmallow Tower Challenge

Form groups of 3 or 4 at your table --
your group must include people from 3
schools

Your group needs:

- 10 marshmallows
- 50 uncooked spaghetti noodles

Your challenge is to create the tallest
structure possible with 10 minutes.



12 A	24.2
12 B	22.8
11 A	29.1
11 B	22.75
11 C	25.5
10 A	14
10 B	19
9 A	17.5
9 B	26

Average 22.3



Debrief

At your table, pair up with someone who was not in your group

Discuss:

1. What was your team's main strategy?
2. Did you feel successful? Why or why not?
3. Did your group work well together?



What does this have to do with SSLAC?

Think about:

Why did we include this activity?

This activity shows how you would work with others in a random scenario.

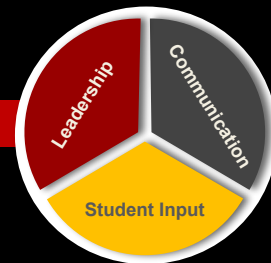
When are other times you might need to do work with others

On a post it share:

The most important thing to keep in mind to have good teamwork.



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

Superintendent's Update

Cell Phone Update

Discussion with System Leaders

Rising Freshman Orientation Prep

Closure and Next Steps



Throughout our sessions students may be pulled briefly for video segments about SSLAC.

Welcome and Overview

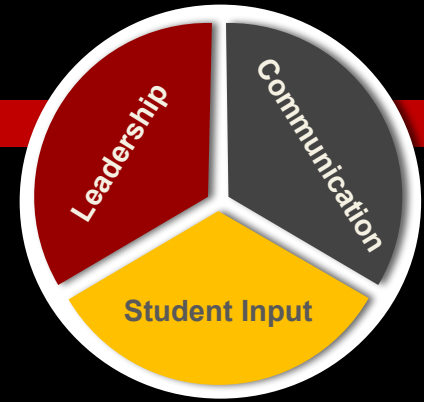
Dr. J. Scott Smith
Superintendent of Schools

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



SMCPS – We HEAR!



H – be here

E – be engaged

A – be approachable

R – be renewed

To Be Of Use

The people I love the best
jump into work head first
without dallying in the shallows
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.
They seem to become natives of that element,
the black sleek heads of seals
bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,
who do what has to be done, again and again.



I want to be with people who submerge
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest
and work in a row and pass the bags along,
who are not parlor generals and field deserters
but move in a common rhythm
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.
But the thing worth doing well done
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums
but you know they were made to be used.
The pitcher cries for water to carry
and a person for work that is real.

- Marge Piercy

Cell Phone Data and Update

What have you seen as the impact of the cell phone policy on your interactions, academics, engagement?



Cell phones -- What's the status?

Create a poster with your table discussing what you see around your school with the new cell phone policy

- 3 positives
- 3 negatives
- Any suggested improvements

Positive	Negative
Positive	Negative
Positive	Negative
Improvements	



What have we seen in cell phone policy data in all of the school system?



Cell Phones in the News...

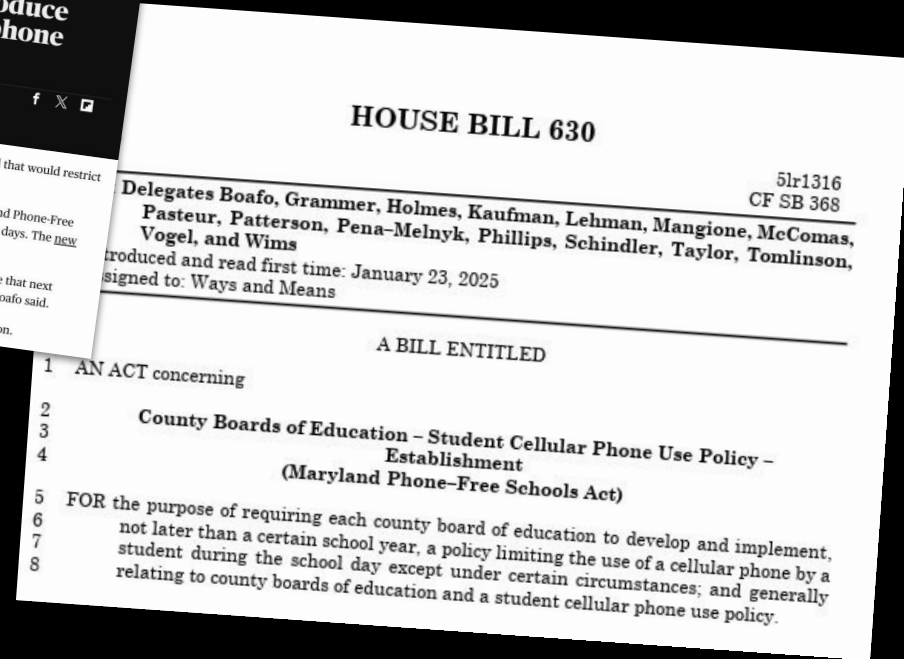
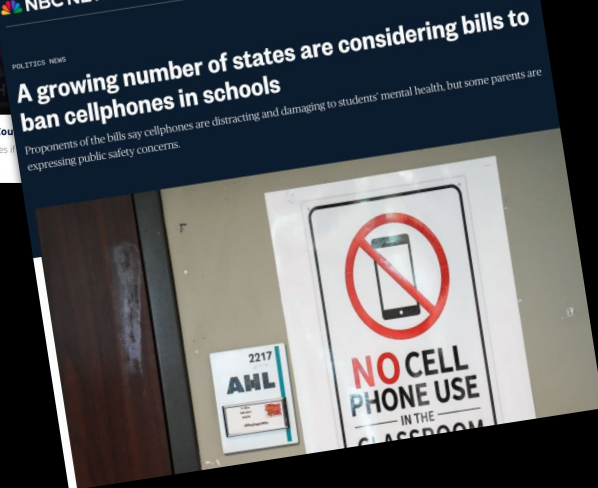
Maryland lawmaker proposes statewide ban on cell phones in classrooms

By FOX 5 DC Digital Team | Updated January 7, 2025 6:18pm EST | Maryland Schools | FOX 5 DC |



Maryland's push to ban cell phones in classrooms: Could it happen soon?

Maryland's push to ban cell phones in classrooms: Could it happen soon?
Maryland classrooms could soon become cell phone-free zones. Katie Barlow has the story.



Data Review

School	Student Cell Phone Confiscations		Student Disciplinary Action (ISI or Suspension)	
	1st Marking Pd	2nd Marking Pd	1st Marking Pd.	2nd Marking Pd
Chopticon	287	145	19 ISI	21 ISI
Leonardtwn HS	308	214	6 ISI - 0 SUS	34 ISI - 3 SUS
Great Mills	303	196	17-ISI, 21-SUS	12-ISI, 9-SUS
Forrest Center	24	18	1	0



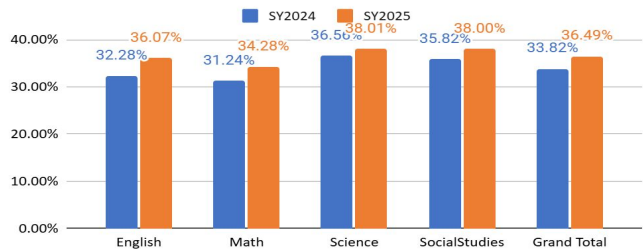
Discipline (MP1, MP2 SY24 and SY25)

	MP1, MP2	MP1, MP2		
	SY24	SY25	difference	
Disruption	1355	1242	-113	-8.34%
Fighting	153	134	-19	-12.42%
Attack on Student	351	309	-42	-11.97%
Inciting	97	82	-15	-15.46%
inappropriate social	11	9	-2	-18.18%
Threat School Violence	12	7	-5	-41.67%
Inappropriate Personal Elec	173	2186	+2013	
TOTAL (all referrals)	6074	7994	1920	
Referrals (not inc Cell)	5901	5808	-93	-1.58%

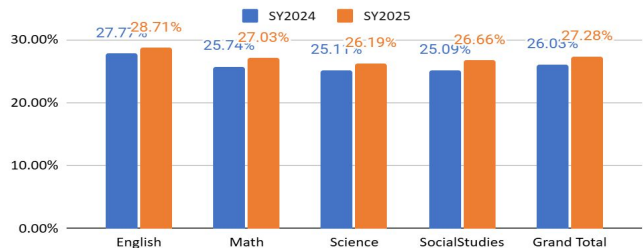


Grades (MP1, MP2 SY24 and SY25)

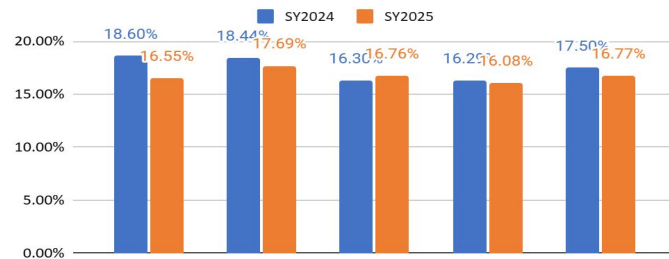
Grade Distribution MP2 SY2024 and SY2025 As



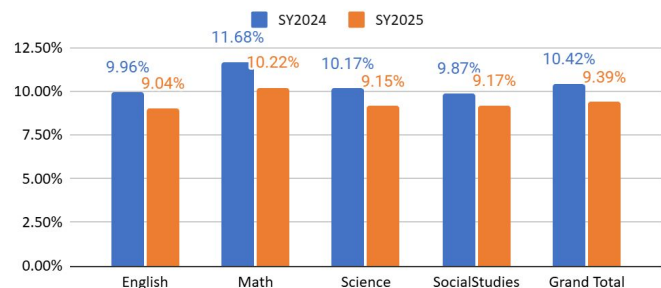
Grade Distribution MP2 SY2024 and SY2025 Bs



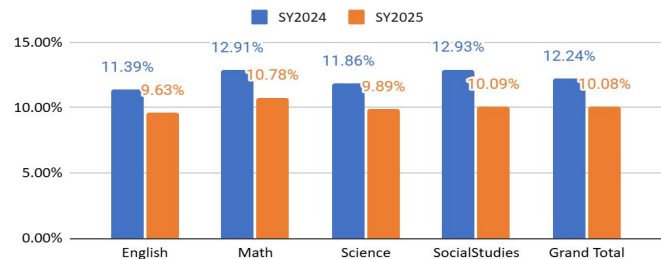
Grade Distribution MP2 SY2024 and SY2025 Cs



Grade Distribution MP2 SY2024 and SY2025 Ds



Grade Distribution MP2 SY2024 and SY2025 Fs



Cell phone data discussion

Grab two sticky notes

What is the data telling us?

Would you say that the policy been successful?

How should we move forward with the cell phone policy?

Should we keep it as is or make changes?



Break



Sit by grade level



Discussion with System Leaders

Supporting Services

- Facilities
- Maintenance
- Operations
- Food service
- Transportation
- Technology

Safety & Security

- Building Security
- Liaise with Law Enforcement
- Emergency Response

Academics

- Curriculum and instruction-content and resources
- Courses-program of studies
- Assessments

Student Services

- Counseling
- Mental health supports
- Community resource partnerships
- Home instruction
- Career counseling

What questions do you have for leaders of these areas of the school system?

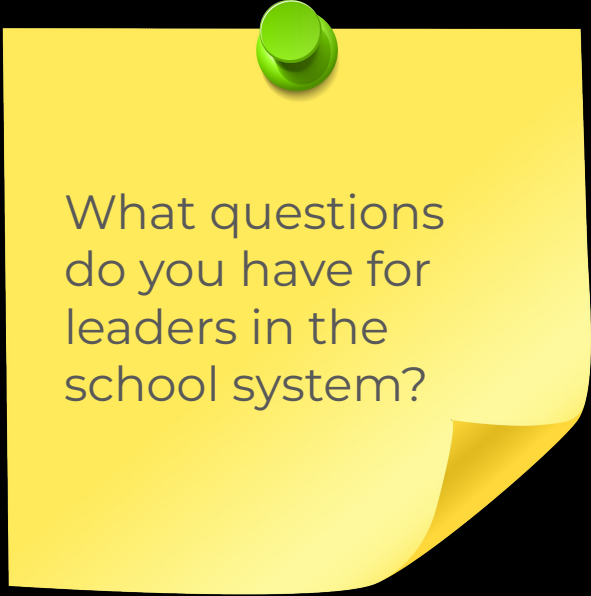


New groups -- Count off in 5s

Take 5 sticky notes

Write a question on each one
for the leader in each
department

- Supporting services
- Safety and security
- Academics
- Student services
- Family and Community Engagement



What questions
do you have for
leaders in the
school system?



Q&A with System Leaders

10 minute stations with System Leaders:

Supporting Services

Safety & Security

Academics

Student Services

Mr. Mike Watson,
Chief Operating Officer

Mr. Charles Eible,
Director of Safety and Security

Mrs. Lisa Bachner,
Chief Academic Officer

Ms. Audrey Ellis,
Director of Special Education

Ms. Corinne Marino,
Supervisor of Student Services



Reflection with System Leaders

With your table write a 1 sentence answer to this question on an index card:

How do the different departments in SMCPS work together to help our schools?



Break

After lunch, sit by school



3/4 - Chopticon HS

3/6 - Great Mills HS

3/10 - Leonardtown HS*

**Note LHS change of date*

St. Mary's County Public Schools

Rising Freshman Orientation



Welcome Class of 2029!

- 6pm every night
- Tour the school
- Plan your path to success
- Meet school staff
- Review graduation requirements

Information will be repeated each night and applies to all three high schools.
For more information:

www.smcps.org/rfon



RFON Table Talk

- What is your school's plan for rising freshman night?
 - Finalize who is presenting and script out what will be shared for Part III.
 - Thank you to our Principals for attending today!

Timeline:

- School Site prep - 15 minutes
- Share your Elevator Pitch with SSLAC
- Remaining time to refine as needed.
 - *Deadline for presentation and script is 2/27!*
 - *Practice runs are scheduled @ each school.*





Freshman Passport



Freshman Passport

Welcome Class of 2029! We are thrilled to have you at the Nest! This passport is your guide to all the great opportunities that Great Mills has. Below are some clear directions.

1. Grab a map at the information desk.
2. Find your way to an activity from the map. Note it down on the right.
a. Example: Football in the Gym
3. Learn about the activity, and see if it is the thing for you! Ask questions.
4. Get your check. Next Station!
5. Once finished with your passport, write your name and student email below.
Finally, turn it in at the info desk!

Name:

Student Email:

Check Academy (minimum 1)

☐

Check Sport (minimum 1)

☐

Check Clubs (minimum 1)

☐

Check Bonus! Choose any station!

☐

Rising Freshman Orientation Nights

Be FOCUSED

PART I - System-wide Message
Class of 2029 presentation

Be YOURSELF

PART II - Student Video

Be INVOLVED

Part III - School Message

- LHS - Making a Connection
- CHS - It'll be OK
- GMHS - Trust Yourself



Lunch!



- Those presenting will practice on stage:
 - CHS - 2/28 7th period
 - GMHS - 3/3 A&B Lunch
 - LHS - 3/6 A&B Lunch

After lunch, sit by school



“About Me” Game

Move your chairs to make a circle

1 person stands in the middle, and says something about themselves

- Ex: “I have one brother”

If this is true about you, you have to get up and find another seat

The person left becomes the person in the middle



Preparing for April

Discussion

With your school, take a gallery walk and review the charts from our first SSLAC meeting.

- Celebrate what we've already discussed
- What is left on the chart paper to bring to April?
- Are there additional topics we should focus on at our next meeting?

Debrief

What was your biggest takeaway from today?

- Write this on an index card as your exit ticket



Feedback and Next Steps



- Complete [survey](#)
 - *Survey is also in Schoology Group*
- **Bring information back to PAC**
 - Attend RFON! Presenters and helpers arrive by 5:30pm!
 - Those presenting will practice on stage:
 - CHS - 2/28 7th period
 - GMHS - 3/3 A&B Lunch
 - LHS - 3/6 A&B Lunch
- **Next Meeting: 4/23 at BOE**

