

SCHOOL OPENING REPORT 2002-2003

Submitted by
Christine M. Johns, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction
J. Robert Haines, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services

I. Introduction

Beginning in June, the Superintendent set a positive instructional tone at the Principals' Academy by outlining a focus on learning and increased achievement by all students. Throughout July, working with the Executive Directors and staff, he revisited the service model and focused the System's resources on improved student achievement. At the Administrative and Supervisory meeting on August 16th, Dr. Hairston and Mr. Arnold commended the staff and delivered an impassioned recommitment to educational excellence.

Baltimore County Public Schools opened on Monday, August 26th to begin the 2002-2003 school year. The enrollment of 107,322 students, as of September 2nd, represents 99.89% of the projected enrollment. Minor changes in this figure will occur between now and September 30, 2002, the date of the official enrollment.

Each Executive Director of Schools and the staff of the Division of Curriculum and Instruction were in schools throughout the first week. Generally, they have reported positive and successful openings of all 162 schools. There were many positive comments about the availability of instructional materials, the commitment of teachers to the students, and the overall cleanliness of the schools. This report highlights the status of several key areas that are of interest to the Board and the public. In any area in which there may be a concern, the appropriate staff has begun to address the issue, or has already done so.

II. Implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act

A. Title I Transfer Option

The Title I Public School Transfer Option process for the 2002-2003 school year was completed before the opening of the new school year. Eighty-eight students accepted the transfer option. Transportation is being provided for these Title I transfer students.

B. Highly Qualified Teachers

The Act requires that teachers of core academic subjects, hired to teach in Title I schools, be "highly qualified." Regulatory language providing explicit direction regarding the term "highly qualified" is still being developed at the federal level. It is clear, though, that teachers must possess a regular teaching certificate granted by the state in which they teach, in

order to be “highly qualified” under this legislation. Thus, at this initial data gathering and reporting stage, we are focusing on differentiating between teachers with regular (standard and advanced professional) and provisional certification. (See Attachment A for Title I schools).

C. Highly Qualified Paraeducators

All newly hired paraeducators (instructional assistants) in Baltimore County Title I schools for the 2002-2003 school year are "highly qualified." "Highly qualified" is defined in this legislation as:

1. Completion of at least two years of study at an institution of higher education; or
2. Obtaining an associate's degree or higher; or
3. Meets a rigorous standard of quality, and can demonstrate -- through a formal State or local academic assessment -- knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, as appropriate - (a) reading/language arts, writing, and mathematics; or (b) reading readiness, writing readiness, and mathematics readiness.

D. Supplemental Services

Schools that had been identified for school improvement for two or more consecutive years, as of January 7, 2002, must begin offering supplemental services in addition to the Title I Transfer Option for this year.

Woodlawn Middle School is the only school required to offer supplemental services to all students. The supplemental services are provided only to those students who qualify for Free and Reduced Meals, in order to help them increase their academic achievement in reading, language arts, and mathematics. These services must take place either before or after the school day, on weekends, or during the summer. Local school systems are required to set aside 5% of Title I funding to pay for supplemental services. Parents of eligible students will receive information on how to enroll their children for these services. The Maryland State Department of Education has indicated that the approved supplemental service vendors are Sylvan Learning Center and Huntington Learning Center.

E. Parent Notification - English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) & Certification of Teachers

The Department of State and Federal Programs and the Office of World Languages are preparing a letter that must go to each parent of ESOL students. The letter will notify the parents of their child's academic level and English proficiency, as well as the services available to them. Translations in 14 languages will be available within two weeks.

In addition, the Department of Human Resources is developing a systemwide and individual school procedure to notify parents regarding uncertified teachers and paraprofessionals in the classroom. This notification will reflect the actual number of

uncertified teachers and paraprofessionals after schools have been in session for four weeks.

III. Instructional Readiness

A. School Orientation

Schools used an orientation model or delayed opening to provide students with an opportunity to become acclimated to the school, teachers, rules, and schedules of a typical day. Textbooks, supplies, and curriculum guides are generally available; there are a few isolated cases that are being addressed.

B. Professional Development and Training

The Division of Curriculum and Instruction offered extensive professional development opportunities for teachers and department heads in locations throughout the county during the teachers' first week of duty. The 87 course offerings covered a vast range of subject matter from Pre-K Mathematics and Differentiating English and Reading Instruction to Information Literacy and the Honors Program.

A three-day, new teacher induction program for 850 teachers was conducted August 13-15, 2002. These teachers, new to Baltimore County Public Schools, attended orientation workshops in curriculum, instruction, assessment, and behavior management. They were also trained in areas of compliance, which included safe schools, child abuse and neglect, and multicultural education. Many other services were available, such as employee benefits, certification, and fingerprinting. The keynote speaker was Dr. Fredric Jones, a well-known expert on behavior management. All new teachers received Dr. Jones' text, *Tools for Teaching* and Baltimore County Public Schools' *New Teacher Handbook*.

C. New Teacher Language Arts Training (Elementary)

Throughout July and August, 2002, the Department of Elementary Programs conducted two New Teacher Language Arts Academies for kindergarten through fifth grade teachers, along with special education teachers. Both academies focused on the components of effective language arts instruction.

V. Residency

The following data regarding Special Permission Transfers and Residency are current, as of September 3, 2002. There have been 218 appeals for special permission transfers and 737 applications received for State of Maryland agency-placed, non-resident status students. In new cases of other-than-agency-placed, non-resident students, 111 applications have been received, while 143 applications for renewal of enrollment have been submitted, for a total of 254. Of this total, 216 have been enrolled.

Additionally, 116 cases of hardship have been received for non-resident students. Of these, 51 have been approved, 36 denied, 3 await decisions pending receipt of further information, and 26 remain to be processed.

There have been 1,500 multiple family living arrangement applications received. Of these, 1,305 have been approved, 44 denied, and 151 remain to be processed.

VI. Homeless Children

As of September 3, 2002, 129 cases of homeless children were reported. This compares with 314 cases reported throughout the last school year.

VII. New Town Elementary School

On September 5, 2002, the Superintendent placed an enrollment cap on New Town Elementary School for the remainder of the 2002-2003 school year. During the period of the enrollment cap, Glyndon Elementary School and Franklin Elementary School will receive those students seeking enrollment at New Town Elementary School after September 5, 2002.

VIII. School Staffing

A. Instructional

In spite of the continuing teacher shortage, the highly competitive employment market, and a very limited labor pool, Baltimore County Public Schools opened with nearly all of the teaching positions filled. There were 13.1 teaching vacancies on the opening day of schools.

This figure represents less than a quarter of one percent of all teaching positions. The areas with the greatest shortage in the labor pool are mathematics, science, special education, technology education, Spanish, and vocal music. The success in filling positions is the direct result of committed, year-round recruitment and systemwide participation in recruitment.

Hiring of minority teachers for the 2002-2003 school year decreased slightly from last year (17.8%) to 16.1% this year. This compares to 17.8%, 17.5%, 18.4% and 14.7% for the past four years, respectively. Overall, minority hiring for certified positions has nearly doubled in the last eight years.

We will be requesting provisional certificates for 330 new hires, a figure that reflects the statewide teacher shortage. The majority of the provisionally certificated teachers will be eligible for regular certification before the end of the current school year. In many cases,

these teachers hold certificates in other states but need one or more tests in course areas to meet Maryland certification requirements.

B. Support Services

Support services hiring has become increasingly challenging, as a result of the strong economy and low unemployment. Support services include multiple position categories that serve to support the educational program through classified, clerical, and technical assignments. To date, we have hired 254 support services personnel and are continuing to hire for 141 vacancies; these numbers are consistent with those at the same time last year. Hiring is moving forward expediently to fill 33 clerical positions, 16 instructional assistant positions, 15 bus driver openings, 7 supervisory and technical positions, 20 Food and Nutrition Services positions, and 50 facilities services and trade positions. The total number of vacancies (141) is consistent with the number of 139 support services vacancies at this time last year. Minority hiring in the support services area is 22%, consistent with last year's hiring.

IX. Physical Facilities

The Department of Physical Facilities opened a new 600-seat addition at Woodlawn High School, as well as the new addition and renovations at Stoneleigh Elementary School. Also completed were the school modernization, renovation, and addition at Randallstown Elementary School. Additionally, numerous facility upgrade projects were completed, including new running tracks at four high schools (Catonsville, Towson, Loch Raven, and Dulaney), new fire alarm systems for seven schools (Catonsville Middle, Deep Creek Middle, Southwest Academy, Dundalk Middle, Overlea High, Owings Mills High, and Woodlawn High), and new playgrounds at four elementary schools (Joppa View, Seven Oaks, Sparks, and Gunpowder). The Department of Physical Facilities completed over 3,000 work order requests for maintenance this summer, and moved 24 relocatable classrooms.

The Department of Physical Facilities cleaned all 162 schools and assisted with the post-construction cleanup for the 44 elementary schools undergoing renovations as part of Phase II. The Office of Grounds, in addition to keeping school and office grounds maintained, augmented our custodial workforce by helping with the cleaning and setup of classrooms for the start of school.

As the new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems are commissioned for the Phase II elementary schools, there is a concern about maintaining acceptable comfort levels within all educational spaces during final completion of construction. There will be punch list items that must be completed, in order to provide a smooth transition into the winter heating season. Maintaining clean conditions, while work continues within the various schools, remains a priority. The increasing square footage, as a result of our new project additions, continues to create an increasing demand on the custodial staff. The New Town High School project schedule is being closely monitored, and is currently on schedule.

X. Transportation and Food Services

Overall, bus transportation and food services were provided to the schools.

A. Bus Service

In the Northwest and Southwest areas, due to 15 bus driver vacancies, some buses did not operate on schedule. Nine additional bus routes were added to accommodate the Title I transfers.

B. Cafeterias

Phone and Point-of-Sale (POS) connections were a six school cafeterias; however, meal service to students was uninterrupted. problem in Cold lunches were served in three elementary schools, as a result of hot water problems.

XI. Technology

A. Customer Support Center

The Customer Support Center designated teams to reconnect classroom computers in renovated schools. Technicians were disbursed in the schools on the week that teachers returned and the week schools opened, to assure a quick response to customer needs. The Help Desk Center had three additional phone lines and staff available to handle the additional call volume during these weeks.

B. Telephone and Computer Support

The telephone service was moved, as necessary, to support Phase II projects. Of the 44 schools affected, 35 required that phones be moved before the Phase II work and returned for schools to open. Some Phase II schools had existing phone and data wiring cut during renovations that had to be restored. Most technology related equipment in school administrative offices was moved to the appropriate locations before schools opened, and there is some work on-going this week.

Back-to-School Night

Back-to-School Nights are scheduled in each school throughout the next several weeks. We look forward to parent-guardian participation at these meetings as teachers, school administrators, and central office staff work closely with parents and guardians. The Back-to-School schedule appears on Baltimore County Public Schools' web site (www.bcps.org).

Thanks to the Staff

The staff throughout the system is to be commended for dedication and teamwork that resulted in a successful 2002-2003 school opening.

**2002-03 HIRES IN TITLE I SCHOOLS
PROVISIONALLY CERTIFICATED**

1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	
1	SCHOOL	ART	BSNSS	CP ED	ELEM	ENGL	FM STD	LIBR	MATH	WLD LNG	MUS	OT	PE	PT	RDG	RSRCE	SCI	SLP	SOC ST	SPC ED	TCH ED	TCH PRG	TOT PROV	TOT HIRES	TOT TCHRS	
2	Baltimore High ES																						0	5	44	
3	Battle Monument ES																							0	1	28
4	Berkshire ES																							0	1	27
5	Chadwick ES				1																			1	3	39
6	Colgate ES	1																						1	2	27
7	Deep Creek ES				1																			1	6	40
8	Deep Creek MS					1				1											2			4	11	73
9	Dogwood ES																							0	5	46
10	Dundalk ES																							0	4	48
11	Dundalk MS										1						2							3	9	54
12	Ed Heights ES				1																			1	7	52
13	Featherbed Int ES																							0	8	30
14	Featherbed Pr ES				1																			1	14	33
15	Glenmar ES																							0	5	32
16	Halstead ES																							0	5	46
17	Hawthorne ES																							0	2	38
18	Hebbsville ES				1																			1	6	42
19	Johnnycake Es																				1			1	9	54
20	Lansdowne ES																							0	2	34
21	Lansdowne MS										2				1									3	10	70
22	Logan ES																							0	4	38
23	Maiden Choice ES																							0	0	27
24	Mars Estates ES																							0	2	40
25	Martin Blvd ES																							0	3	29
26	McCormick ES																							0	0	34
27	Middlesex ES																							0	2	42
28	Milbrook ES																							0	1	34
29	Powhatan ES				1																			1	3	33
30	Riverview ES																							0	7	39
31	Sandalwood ES																							0	1	43
32	Sandy Plains ES																							0	8	52
33	Scotts Branch ES																							0	3	44
34	Shady Spring ES				1																			1	4	44
35	Sussex ES																							0	0	34
36	White Oak ES																							0	5	78
37	Winfield ES																							0	3	33
38	Woodlawn MS					4			3	1		2								2				12	26	95
39	Woodmoor ES																							0	2	52
40		ART	BSNSS	CP ED	ELEM	ENGL	FM STD	LIBR	MATH	WLD LNG	MUS	OT	PE	PT	RDG	RSRCE	SCI	SLP	SOC ST	SPC ED	TCH ED	TCH PRG	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	
41																										
42	TOTAL	1	0	0	7	5	0	0	3	2	3	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	2	3	0	0	31	189	1,648	
43																										
44		Needs 1 Praxis test OR awaiting out-of-state certificate											Note: Praxis tests represent one component of Maryland certification requirements. Administered by Educational Testing Services (ETS),													
45		One out of two needs 1 Praxis test											these tests assess both general knowledge in reading, writing, and													
46		Two out of three need Praxis test(s)											mathematics (Praxis I) and content-specific knowledge/pedagogy (Praxis II).													
47		Three out of four need Praxis test(s)																								
48		Different states requires different tests for certification.																								

**2002-03 HIRES IN TITLE I SCHOOLS
PROVISIONALLY CERTIFICATED**

	Z
1	SCHOOL
2	Baltimore High ES
3	Battle Monument ES
4	Berkshire ES
5	Chadwick ES
6	Colgate ES
7	Deep Creek ES
8	Deep Creek MS
9	Dogwood ES
10	Dundalk ES
11	Dundalk MS
12	Ed Heights ES
13	Featherbed Int ES
14	Featherbed Pr ES
15	Glenmar ES
16	Halstead ES
17	Hawthorne ES
18	Hebbville ES
19	Johnnycake Es
20	Lansdowne ES
21	Lansdowne MS
22	Logan ES
23	Maiden Choice ES
24	Mars Estates ES
25	Martin Blvd ES
26	McCormick ES
27	Middlesex ES
28	Milbrook ES
29	Powhatan ES
30	Riverview ES
31	Sandalwood ES
32	Sandy Plains ES
33	Scotts Branch ES
34	Shady Spring ES
35	Sussex ES
36	White Oak ES
37	Winfield ES
38	Woodlawn MS
39	Woodmoor ES
40	
41	
42	TOTAL
43	
44	
45	
46	
47	
48	