

School Opening Report

2007-2008

Executive Summary

Baltimore County Public Schools opened a new school year on August 27, 2007. Both school-based and central office staff reported overall a smooth opening.

The school year opened with systemwide enrollment at 97.1% of projection and all but 6.6 teaching positions filled. Vacancies in support service areas, including but not limited to Food Services, Transportation, and Physical Facilities totaled 183.

New principals were in place in 28 schools, including Crossroads Center which opened with an enrollment of 408 students.

The full-day kindergarten program is now in place in all 104 elementary schools. The AVID program is in place in 24 high schools and one middle school. Title I services are provided in 37 elementary schools and nine middle schools. All of the newly-hired paraeducators in Title I schools are highly-qualified and all but three newly-hired teachers in those same schools are highly-qualified.

As of August 27, 2007, the Department of Student Support Services had processed a total of 2,462 non-resident, shared domicile, and special transfer applications.

All buildings were clean and opened on time. Several thousand work orders were completed over the summer and renovation projects continue in various schools throughout the county. Installation of fiber optic networks occurred at various sites, scanners for the assessTrax program were delivered and installation is on schedule for the first cycle of assessments.

Smooth openings were also reported by the Office of Food and Nutrition Services and the Office of Transportation although vacancies still exist in both operations.

School Opening Report 2007-2008

The opening of schools in Baltimore County on August 27, 2007, was by every account highly successful. Staff in the offices of the area assistant superintendents, the Division of Curriculum and Instruction, and the Division of Business Services universally recorded smooth operations, clean buildings and grounds, equipment and materials in place, faculty and staff ready, willing, able, and enthusiastic about the new school year.

Enrollment

Total enrollment on August 27, 2007, was 102, 282 students, or 97.1 % of our projected enrollment of 105, 330 – a difference of 3,048 students. On any area-by-area basis, actual enrollment on opening day varied from 95.1% of projection to 98.3% of projection.

Schools and Centers

The new Crossroads Center opened with 408 students enrolled and all staff positions filled. Maryland's Tomorrow/AdvancePath Academy at Chesapeake High School also opened for the first time with 81 students enrolled and 21 more scheduled for intake. All staff positions are filled.

New principals were in place in 8 schools in the southwest area, 5 schools in the northwest area, 3 schools in the central area, 9 schools in the northeast area, and 3 in the southeast area.

Back-to-School nights have been scheduled throughout the county, and the dates for those events are posted on the system's Web site.

Staffing

During the summer months, the Department of Human Resources hired 856 teachers, and on opening day, had filled all but 6.6 teaching positions.

- Chesapeake High School-Technology Education
- General John Stricker Middle School-Special Education
- Lansdowne High School-Special Education
- Milford Mill Academy-JROTC-(Marines)
- Dundalk High School-JROTC-(Navy)
- Patapsco High School-Music/Theatre
- Sudbrook Magnet Middle School-Spanish (.6)

No vacancies exist in the core subject areas of Math and Science.

The JROTC programs at Milford Mill and Dundalk both have at least one military staff person and programs continue.

Vacancies in support service positions, including bus drivers, food service workers, paraeducators, maintenance and operations staff, clerical staff, and supervisory and technical positions, totaled 183 on opening day.

Instructional Readiness: Division of Curriculum and Instruction

In conjunction with staffing and hiring efforts, instructional readiness was realized through a variety of initiatives and activities.

The Department of Humanities has focused on increasing rigor by assigning special education resource teachers to each of the four core content areas, by planning and developing co-teaching models, and through professional development that addresses differentiation.

The AVID program is in place in 24 high schools and one middle school. High schools new to the program this year include Carver, Eastern, Dundalk, Towson, and Western.

Title I services are in place in 37 elementary and 9 middle schools. The Department of Human Resources hired 203 teachers for these schools. Only three of these newly hired teachers are presently conditional and each of these is expected to attain highly qualified status when out-of-state teaching certificates or Praxis scores are received. Each of the 25 paraeducators newly hired for Title I schools are highly qualified.

During the summer months, the Title I office approved 294 new special transfer requests. This brings the total number of students participating in the special transfer option to 477.

The implementation of the Catalyst Gifted and Talented program in Title I elementary schools has been enhanced through the assignment of 19 full-time equivalent (FTE) resource teachers and 9 FTE reading teachers to support the enhanced implementation of the *Language!* program in Title I middle schools.

The implementation of full-day kindergarten has been expanded to 9 more schools and is now in place in all of our elementary schools.

The work of the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) is reflected at Chesapeake High School, the first STEM Academy in Maryland. This STEM program is designed to provide a strong foundation for students interested in careers in the fields of science, math, and technology. As we move beyond planning and into the first year of implementation, the lessons at Chesapeake will employ creative and innovative uses of technology in all subject areas.

The Math Department has provided new instructional materials to support Elementary Mathematics *Investigations* for Grades K through 5 and *Algebraic Thinking* in middle schools. All ordered materials are in schools.

The Department of Student Support Services has processed 1,301 non-resident applications, 2,462 new shared domicile applications, and 310 special transfer requests. A total of 2,612 of those applications have been approved, 349 have been denied, and 100 applications are pending.

Professional development was provided to 733 teachers as part of a three-day New Teacher Induction program. Orientation workshops included topics related to curriculum, instruction, and classroom management. In addition, all teachers and Student Support Services personnel participated in countywide Professional Development Day activities on August 22, 2007.

Staff throughout the Division of Curriculum and Instruction visited schools during the first week of school and reported that teachers were ready for their students, and materials and supplies were in place.

School Readiness: Division of Business Services

The Department of Information Technology installed fiber optic networks at 23 sites to enhance reliability and speed. Scanners for the assessTrax program were delivered in late August and will be installed in 66 elementary schools. This will complete the installation of scanners for the short-cycle and benchmark assessment in all schools.

Wireless connectivity has been provided at Kenwood High School and Crossroads Center. Kenwood has received 200 new computers and Crossroads 250.

The Office of Information Technology also replaced 610 Mac computers in the arts and special education programs.

Instructional readiness has been supported with the design for an online elementary report card. Training in the use of this tool will begin in September.

Building readiness in each area also supported and enhanced instructional readiness. All 170 schools and centers opened on time, clean, and ready to receive teachers and students.

The Office of Maintenance completed 1,193 work orders and 447 maintenance upgrades were addressed. These included electrical repairs, fire alarm testing, stage refinishing, gym line painting, boiler repairs, interior and exterior door replacement, storm drain repairs, lavatory stall replacements, carpet and floor tile replacement, plumbing repairs, abatement projects, and stage curtain replacements.

The Office of Grounds completed 1,277 work orders including mowing, signage, line marking, graffiti removal, safety related concrete repairs, turf and fence repair, tree removal, playground equipment repairs, blacktop, equipment repairs, and athletic field repairs.

In addition to managing 72 capital construction projects in progress throughout the county, the Department of Physical Facilities completed installation of new boilers in two schools, new windows in 7 schools, and parking upgrades in 6 schools. Renovations continue in another 17 schools. Major security upgrades are underway in 140 schools, and 4 schools are receiving new roofs.

In the southwest area, this work is reflected at:

- Maiden Choice (new roof; new windows)
- Arbutus Middle (major renovations)

- Southwest Academy (major renovations)
- Catonsville Middle (major renovations)
- Woodlawn Middle (major renovations)
- Lansdowne Elementary (new windows)
- Woodmoor Elementary (new windows)

In the northwest area, this work is reflected at:

- Winand Elementary (parking lot upgrade)
- Scotts Branch (parking lot upgrade)
- Pikesville Middle (major renovations)
- Old Court Middle (major renovations)
- Sudbrook Magnet Middle (major renovations)
- Glyndon Elementary (restroom renovation)

In the central area, this work is reflected at:

- Ridgely Middle (major renovations)
- Hereford Middle (major renovations)
- Cockeysville Middle (major renovations)
- Loch Raven Technical Academy (major renovations)
- Dumbarton Middle (kitchen upgrade)

In the northeast area, this work is reflected at:

- Carney Elementary (parking lot upgrade)
- Perry Hall Elementary (new chiller)
- Perry Hall High (new boiler)
- Kenwood High (new addition)
- Pine Grove Middle (major renovations)
- Perry Hall Middle (major renovations)

In the southeast area, this work is reflected at:

- Holabird Middle (major renovations)
- Sparrows Point Middle (major renovations)
- Deep Creek Middle (major renovations)
- Deer Park Middle (major renovations)
- General John Stricker Middle (major renovations)
- Bear Creek Elementary (new windows)
- Grange Elementary (new windows)
- Mars Estates Elementary (parking lot upgrade)
- Norwood Elementary (parking lot upgrade)
- Sandy Plains Elementary (parking lot upgrade)
- Chesapeake High (modular building installed)

Support services were also in place for all students. The Office of Transportation safely delivered approximately 70,000 students using 844 bus routes. The Office of Food and Nutrition Services

has been serving more than 61,700 meals each day since the opening of school. Vacancies still exist in both offices; however, services on the first day of school were provided without unforeseen disruptions.

Providing students with the opportunity to receive a quality education is a joint and collaborative effort. The smooth start to the 2007-2008 school year may be attributed to the enthusiasm and energy evident among students and staff and the continuing support of our parents and stakeholders.