

GOAL: Providing More Support to Students Who Need it the Most.

Aligns with Board of Education of Harford County Goal 1: Prepare every student for success in postsecondary education and career.

THE BLUEPRINT PLANS FOR:



- Broad and sustained supports for schools serving high concentrations of students living in poverty
- Student access to needed prevention, health and social services
- Increased support for English language learners and special education students

HCPS PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES:

- **Title I:** High-poverty schools that meet an identified criteria are eligible to adopt Title I programs and funding to raise the achievement of students.
- **Special Education:** Special Education in Harford County Public Schools is a collaborative effort involving schools, families and community agencies working together to ensure a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to all children with disabilities, birth through age 21. Special education is defined as specially designed instruction, provided at no cost to parents, in order to meet the unique needs of a child with an educational or developmental disability.
- **Community Schools:** Community schools develop and utilize partnerships to connect the school, students, families, and surrounding community to the resources needed in order to thrive. The community school strategy is deeply rooted in equity by supporting traditionally underserved communities and leveraging additional partnerships for essential services.
- **English Language Learners (EL):** The HCPS EL Program facilitates students' English language acquisition aiming for students to be independent learners at the appropriate grade level. While the majority of these students are native Spanish speakers, HCPS has at least 48 additional languages spoken by our students. The EL Program includes plug-in and pull-out in all schools.
- **Health Services:** Our nurses support student success and achievement by identifying health concerns through assessment, intervention, education, prevention and follow-up for all students in the school setting.
- **Behavioral and Mental Health:** Students are supported daily by school counselors, psychologists, and social workers, who may teach classroom lessons, meet with students, utilize restorative conflict resolution, and support instructional staff with classroom-based interventions. Staff works with students and families to locate and access behavioral and mental health services in our community. Individual schools partner with at least one outpatient mental health clinic for therapy services to referred students during the academic day.
- **Health Needs Assessments:** HCPS prioritizes the use of data to address the mental and physical health needs of our students. After completing mental health needs assessments for students, physical health needs assessments are being added to assess students' physical health needs.

BLUEPRINT BUILDING BLOCKS

- Funding for English language learners and special education students
- Expansion of Community School model
- Behavioral health services
- Staff training on student behavioral health, recognition of trauma
- Schools without school-based health centers have plans to connect services
- COVID-19 targeted support and recovery

