

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Superintendent Dr. Sean Bulson Addresses Impact of County Executive Bob Cassilly's Budget Announcement

Superintendent Dr. Sean Bulson addressed the significant impacts of County Executive Bob Cassilly's budget announcement at the Monday, April 15, 2024, Board of Education Business meeting.

In his response, Dr. Bulson underscored the relevance of Maryland's Blueprint for Education and its direct impact on individual school systems.

"The Blueprint funding framework relies on formulas and calculations, yet in HCPS, we firmly believe that our students' education funding should be tailored to meet their diverse needs," Dr. Bulson shared. "Our students are not mere figures in a formula; they represent the future of our county."

While the Blueprint endeavors to offer a framework for equitable education funding statewide, it does not fully address the diverse and nuanced needs of each locality. In Harford County, the community expects reasonable class size, transportation services, safety and security, world languages, athletics/extra-curriculars, clubs, field trips including Harford Glen, small historic schools, employee benefits, and arts and music programs to be provided to our students. Without local support, funds previously utilized to make these programs available to students must be diverted to the requirements set forth in the Blueprint.

Responding to Mr. Cassilly using buzz words like, "flat funding," and "maintenance of effort to meet state requirements," Dr. Bulson explained, "we don't want anyone to interpret these terms as adequate. Some of the funding formulas are dramatically flawed. The reality is that such allocations effectively translate into cuts from services for our students."

The Superintendent announced proactive measures being taken by HCPS to address funding shortfalls in the FY25 budget. Among these measures, elementary and middle summer school sessions for this summer have been canceled. These adjustments serve as early indicators of the potential impacts on HCPS programs and services without sufficient local funding.

As part of efforts to engage the community and foster understanding about the FY25 budget, Dr. Bulson encouraged participation in upcoming budget information sessions. These sessions, scheduled for April 17, 2024, at Edgewood High School and April 22, 2024, at Aberdeen High School, both running from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., will provide further insights into the budgetary challenges facing HCPS.

For more information about the FY25 budget and upcoming sessions, please visit hcps.org/budget. To view the entire presentation, visit hcps.org/boe/livestream to access the [April 15, 2024, Board of Education Business meeting video archive](#).

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