

SECTION 3
GOALS, STANDARDS, AND
GUIDELINES

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

MISSION, SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BELIEFS, AND GOALS

CORE STATEMENT

Carroll County Public Schools: Building the Future

CORE VALUES

- The Pursuit of Excellence
- Life-long Learning and Success
- A Safe and Orderly Learning Environment
- Community Participation
- Fairness, Honesty, and Respect
- Continuous Improvement
- Reflecting the priorities, beliefs, and mores of our local community

CORE BELIEFS

The Board of Education believes that the Carroll County Public Schools system operates effectively and efficiently when:

The greater Carroll County community:

- Values the importance of a quality education
- Supports educational initiatives at home
- Volunteers in schools
- Forms partnerships with schools to support system initiatives

All central office staff:

- Establish and maintain a framework for organizational decisions to be based on empirical data
- Establish and maintain a safe and orderly environment for students and staff
- Provide adequate resources that are equitably distributed
- Provide an equitable educational opportunity for all students
- Communicate effectively with all stakeholders
- Enforce accountability for system initiatives
- Model effective leadership and professional respect
- Provide a diverse program of studies with a global perspective designed to meet students' educational goals
- Coordinate professional development opportunities that are relevant, site-based, job embedded, aligned with the tenets of cultural proficiency, and meet the needs of all staff
- Empower employees, students, and communities to make school-based decisions within an established framework.

All school staff:

- Welcome their school community
- Establish positive home and school relationships
- Provide a safe and orderly learning environment for students and staff
- Work to ensure that every child succeeds
- Display cultural proficiency
- Prepare students with a global education
- Place priority on the educational needs of students
- Motivate students to learn
- Recognize the unique learning styles of each student
- Facilitate learning by encouraging, prompting, and interacting with students
- Establish and maintain positive and appropriate relationships with students
- Ensure learning by providing instruction that meets each student's individual needs
- Support student success
- Encourage students to make choices that provide challenges
- Assess student progress through both formal and informal methods and then provide appropriate and targeted data-driven instruction
- Engage students in rigorous and relevant instruction

All students:

- Enroll in coursework that prepares them to be career – college ready
- Obtain the skills to thrive as independent 21st century learners
- Become knowledgeable, responsible, and caring citizens
- Demonstrate respect for the learning environment and other individuals
- Reach their potential
- Develop effective communication, interpersonal, and leadership skills
- Participate in varied co-curricular and extracurricular activities

CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STRATEGIC PLANNING PILLARS

I. PROVIDE MULTIPLE PATHWAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Upon graduation, Carroll County Public Schools students will be college and career ready. The variety of course options found in the CCPS program of studies empowers students to meet the educational prerequisites to enter an institution of higher learning, the military, or the work force. Targeted interventions, alternative placements, career connections internships, dual enrollment options, online courses, special education services, gifted and talented services, and differentiated course levels are provided to meet the individual learning needs of students.

II. STRENGTHEN PRODUCTIVE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Carroll County Public Schools' personnel will communicate openly and honestly to foster a trusting and supportive relationship with parents, community members, business partners, and public officials. CCPS strives to create an atmosphere of mutual appreciation and respect for diversity and encourage unity among all students, staff, and community. CCPS welcomes parent and community volunteers to help with the total school program.

III. DEVELOP AND SUPPORT A SUCCESSFUL WORKFORCE

Carroll County Public Schools will hire and retain highly qualified and skilled employees who are dedicated to the success of our school system and students. Employees can expect to be supervised by experts in their field who provide timely and relevant professional development opportunities and feedback designed to promote their effectiveness and success. CCPS values a high performing and diverse workforce who contribute to a positive educational experience for all students.

IV. ESTABLISH SAFE, SECURE, HEALTHY, AND MODERN LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Carroll County Public Schools recognizes that the safety and well-being of our students and staff is our highest priority. Students, parents, and CCPS employees can expect policies, procedures, and programs to be implemented that promote a safe and orderly environment in school, on school grounds, and on school buses, as well as programs that promote healthy life style choices and social and emotional well-being. CCPS strives to provide up-to-date facilities, technologies, equipment, and instructional materials appropriate for a modern learning environment.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

The Carroll County Public Schools provide a general educational program for all eligible students of the county, beginning with Prekindergarten and continuing through a comprehensive high school program. In addition, special educational opportunities are available to those potential students who need such attention, beginning with early intervention (pre-school) and continuing through age 21.

The Elementary School Program is described as a "developmental program" beginning with kindergarten, and continuing through grade 5. Current grade level alignment is K-5 for all elementary schools with the exception of Parr's Ridge (K-grade 2) and Mt. Airy (grades 3-5). An extensive course of study with prescribed goals for each grade level is published by the school system. Students are regularly assessed on their progress through the Carroll County Public Schools reporting system.

Although students are grouped and regrouped according to their achievement level, the basic class activities involve one teacher and about 23 pupils in a flexible classroom setting. Special instructors provide direct instruction in art, music, media, physical education, health, reading, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), advanced academics, and special education services.

The Middle School Program for students in grades 6-8 is often described as a "transitional program" between elementary and high school. Students are instructed in interdisciplinary teams composed of four or five teachers each teaching a specific discipline. Students are exposed to a progressively more rigorous program of studies instructed by teachers who specialize in science, social studies, language arts, reading and mathematics. Students participate in exploratory programs in fine and practical arts. Appropriate support programs are available to identified students in the area of their specific needs. Advance academic programs are provided at each grade level for students who demonstrate an ability to be successful in a more rigorous program.

The High School Program for students in grades 9-12 is comprehensive; each student has the opportunity to supplement the basic core of courses that constitute the Maryland High School Diploma graduation requirements. As a part of the diploma requirement (25 credits in a balance of pre-determined fields of study), students must satisfy assessment requirements in Algebra, English, Government and Biology and also demonstrate competence in areas of human activity as defined by the Maryland State Department of Education. Students in the fields of the arts and physical education, the World of Work, and Survival Skills, must participate in an approved program. They must also either meet the credit entrance requirements for the University of Maryland, and/or successfully finish a state-approved career complete program. Within each high school, intervention and support programs for diverse learners are also available.

Career and Technical Education

The mission for the system of Career and Technical Education (CTE) for Carroll County is to prepare all students for further education and careers. Learners are prepared to begin careers and pursue lifelong learning through a process of career development, rigorous academic instruction, specific technical skills development, and work experience in order to meet their personal needs for further education and workforce preparation. In order to achieve this mission, CTE programs are offered in middle schools, high schools, a career and technology center, and one alternative school. Students are introduced to CTE programs in the middle schools through the Family and Consumer Sciences and Technology Education curriculum. High school students are offered opportunities in CTE programs in the following occupational areas:

Career and Technical Education Courses offered at Comprehensive High Schools		
Accounting	Early Childhood Education	Textiles and Fashion Careers*
Administrative Services	Education - Middle and High School** (Teacher Academy of MD)	Video Production*
Agricultural Sciences - Animal (Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education)	Financial Services** (Academy of Finance)	Wildlife/Natural Resource Management
Agricultural Sciences - Plant (Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education)	Food Service and Hospitality Management (ProStart)	
Animal and Veterinary Science	Marketing	
Business Administration & Management	Print Production*	
* Introductory classes of these programs are offered at comprehensive high schools. Students who wish to continue in the program go to higher level classes offered at a centralized location.		
Carroll County Career and Technology Center Programs		
Academy of Health Professions	Computer Science (Project Lead the Way)	Homeland Security: Criminal Justice
Applied Mechanical Engineering	Cosmetology Careers	Homeland Security: Geographic Information Systems and Technology
Auto Service Technology	Culinary Arts	Masonry
Biomedical Sciences (Project Lead the Way)	Drafting	Print Production
Building Maintenance	Electrical Construction	Textiles and Fashion Careers
Carpentry	Engineering (Project Lead the Way)	Video Production
Cisco Networking Academy	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning	Welding Technology
Collision Repair Technology	Heavy Equipment and Truck Technology	

Special Education Services

Carroll County Public Schools provides Special Education programs and services to all eligible children with disabilities (from birth through their twenty-first birthday) who reside in the county. Special Education services include diagnostic, instructional, and related services. Programs and services are provided on a continuum ranging from consultation with regular education teachers, up through residential placement seven days a week. These programs and services are designed to ensure that appropriate programs are available to all children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment for each child. This is determined based upon the child's unique needs and not program availability.

Early Childhood Services - In order to meet the needs of children who are not old enough to attend Kindergarten in Carroll County Public Schools, there are two early intervention programs offered for children in need of special education services. These programs are:

Infants and toddlers: Ages 0-3: Children and their families receive services in their natural environments within a twelve-month programming cycle based upon an approved Individual Family Service Plan. The domains of health, cognition, communication, and mobility are addressed.

Preschool: Ages 3-5: Children with disabilities receive services in the least restrictive environment in which their Individual Education Plans (IEP) can be implemented. Some students continue to receive supports through an Extended Individual Service Plan. IEP services include specially designed instruction in a variety of areas delivered through itinerant services in the home, private/community preschool, or in a CCPS Pre-Kindergarten classroom. Students who require a special education preschool setting are provided services at one of the five elementary special education regional centers or Carroll Springs School.

School Age Services - Once a child is old enough to attend Kindergarten, special education services are typically delivered in that student's geographic home school. Special Education and related services include specially designed instruction in areas like academics, communication, behavior, gross motor, fine motor, sensory, vision, hearing, and counseling. These services are provided across a continuum of environments. Special education services are always provided in the least restrictive environment possible. Examples of these environments include the general education classroom, a combination of the general education classroom and the special education classroom, and the special education classroom. For some students whose needs cannot be met in the home school, regional programs like the Autism Program, BEST Program, and the Learning for Independence Program are available. The Learning for Independence Program is regionalized at the elementary level and is available at each middle school (with the exception of East Middle) and each high school. More restrictive placements, like non-public placements, are available to students.

Elementary age students whose needs and IEP require extensive services outside of general education may receive special education services in a Structured Learning Environment or Learning for Independence classroom. In order to maximize both staff and classroom resources, these students may receive services at one of the five elementary special education regional centers. The following elementary schools are the regional centers for these services: Carrolltowne, Hampstead, Robert Moton, Runnymede, and Winfield.

Elementary age students that require specialized behavioral and counseling services as detailed in an IEP may participate in the countywide Behavioral Educational Support Team (BEST) program which is located at Robert Moton Elementary school.

Middle and High school students whose needs and IEP require that they are placed in a Structured Learning Environment or Learning for Independence class receive most or all of their specially designed instruction within a special education classroom. These services are provided at the student's home school (with the exception of Learning for Independence at East Middle School).

Middle Schools students that require specialized behavioral and counseling services as detailed in an IEP may participate in the countywide BEST middle school program which is located at East Middle school.

High School students that require specialized behavioral and counseling services as detailed in an IEP may participate in the countywide BEST high school program located at Westminster High School.

Students with Autism whose needs cannot be met in their home schools may participate in the Autism Program. Eligible three and four year olds may attend the Preschool Autism Program at Carroll Springs School. Eligible elementary students may attend the Autism Programs at Hampstead and Winfield Elementary. Eligible middle school students may attend the Autism Program at Shiloh Middle School. Eligible high school students may attend the Autism Program at Winters Mill High School.

Carroll Springs School is the public separate day school within Carroll County for students with profound disabilities for whom the IEP Team has determined that services must be provided in this education environment.

For students with needs that no combination of services and supplementary aids can meet in the home school or in a regional program, services may be provided within a full day non-public setting.

All special education programs in CCPS are non-categorical. The structure of these special programs may be adapted at any time to meet the diverse needs of students as determined by the IEP team.

Post-Secondary Services – Students pursuing a Certificate of Program Completion (students who receive instruction on the alternate standards and participate in the alternate state assessments) may participate in the Post-Secondary Program after their fourth year of high school. CCPS has five post-secondary programs. Eligible students may participate in these programs through the school year of their 21st birthday as determined by their IEPs. The programs are developed in collaboration with community partners to provide learning opportunities for students with disabilities. Post-Secondary partners include Carroll Community College, Carroll Hospital, McDaniel College, the Division of Rehabilitation Services, local community rehabilitation providers, and members of the Carroll County business community. These partnerships have correlated to post-school success in the areas of independent living, community participation, and employment for students of Carroll County Public Schools.

Transition Connections Program (TCP): TCP is a school to work program which focuses on vocational, academic and independent living skills. TCP partners with local businesses and government agencies to provide students vocational opportunities within the community. Students also attend two classes tailored to meet their unique needs in the age appropriate setting of Carroll Community College.

Vocational Opportunities for Independent Change and Empowerment (VOICE): VOICE is a community based program which focuses on increasing students' individual capacity in the areas of vocational skills, activities of daily living, community participation, and communication and social skills. Students in this program generally require greater supervision and support. Instruction is delivered in an enclave model in authentic settings within the community.

Seamless Transition @ Carroll Community (ST@CC): ST@CC is a partnership between CCPS and Carroll Community College. The program was developed for students who demonstrate higher levels of independence and are able to participate in on-campus jobs on a rotational basis. Job rotations give students exposure to a variety of work settings allowing them to sharpen skills, as well as identify areas of possible career interests. Classroom instruction focuses on academic skills, self-determination, career development, and communication and social skills.

Transition Education @ Carroll Hospital (TE@CH): TE@CH is designed to provide students with disabilities valuable work experience within a hospital setting. The program is intended for students with the highest level of independence. The anticipated outcome after participation in this program is paid, competitive employment. Instructional time includes classes to support academic skills, communication and social skills, self-determination and self-advocacy and career development.

Transition Education @ McDaniel (TE@M): TE@M combines classroom instruction with work based learning opportunities on the grounds of McDaniel College. This program is designed for students with a high level of independence since they must be able to navigate the college campus independently. Classes include Academic Support, Communication and Social Skills, Self-Determination, and Career Management.

Alternative Education Services

Carroll County Public Schools offers a variety of alternative education programs that are designed to assist students who have not been successful in the traditional school setting.

Crossroads Middle School – Crossroads Middle School is an alternative educational setting designed to provide behavioral and academic interventions to promote future success for students in their home school setting, as well as transitional support when students return to their home school. Students are enrolled for the following reasons: extended suspensions from their home school, voluntary placements for students not demonstrating success in their home school, administrative placements, and special education placements to provide services beyond those available in the home school, and transfers from out of county alternative programs.

Flexible Student Support – There are three major components that make up Flexible Student Support: the Student Support Center (SSC), the Distance Learning Lab (DLL), and The Career Research and Development Program (CRD). The SSC serves students who need a small structured setting with direct instruction in order to complete their course work. The DLL serves students who can work independently through an online education program. The CRD program serves students who need to meet the program “completer” graduation requirement. This program allows students to earn 2.0 credits for classroom instruction and 2.0 credits for supervised work experience. These support services are designed to serve both in-school youth who have not been successful in the regular high school program, and out-of-school youth who desire to return to the school system to complete the requirements for a high school diploma.

The Gateway School – The Gateway School is an alternative educational setting designed to assist high school students so that they have successful school experiences. The Gateway School enrolls students for the following reasons: extended suspension from their home school, voluntary student placements for students failing to succeed in their home school environment, administrative placements for students who have a documented need for a small structured environment that cannot be met at the home school, students returning to school from withdrawn status, students needing special education services beyond those available at the home school, and transfers from out of county alternative programs.

Positive Response to Issues of Discipline with Elementary Students (PRIDE) – The PRIDE program is an alternative educational setting for pre-kindergarten and elementary students. PRIDE is committed to enhance the educational progress of students demonstrating difficulties in areas of behavioral and emotional adjustment in a comprehensive school setting.

PRIDE serves a diverse population, consisting of students exhibiting severe behavioral issues resulting in disciplinary consequence and placement, students transferring into Carroll County from alternative schools in other systems, and students needing a transition from a hospitalization. Students can also be referred to PRIDE after evidencing resistance to behavioral interventions in their home school.

Supplemental Educational Services

The diversity of our student population requires that supplemental services be provided to maximize every student’s opportunity to be successful. A variety of local, state, and federally funded programs are provided help students access to learning experiences tailored to meet their unique needs.

Prekindergarten - Carroll County Public Schools currently offers fifteen half-day (a.m.) sessions at the following elementary schools: Carrolltowne, Ebb Valley, Eldersburg, Hampstead, Linton Springs, Manchester, Mechanicsville, Parr’s Ridge, Piney Ridge, Runnymede, Sandymount, Spring Garden, Westminster, William Winchester, and Winfield. Four additional full-day prekindergarten programs are offered at the following schools: Cranberry Station, Elmer Wolfe, Robert Moton, and Taneytown. These four full-day prekindergarten programs are funded through the MSDE Early Learning Expansion Grant.

Title I - Title I is a federally funded program designed to help children succeed in the regular education program, attain and maintain grade level proficiency, and improve achievement in reading and math. Title I funds are used to provide supplementary educational services to students, professional development for staff, and opportunities that foster parental involvement. Carroll County Public Schools has Targeted Assistance Title I Programs at Cranberry Station and Elmer Wolfe. School-wide Title I programs were implemented in 2012-13 at Robert Moton, and Taneytown.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) - Carroll County Public Schools offers specialized instructional services to students in grades PreK-12 whose native language is not English and/or meet program requirements. These services are provided by an ESOL Resource Teacher at the student's home school.

Gifted and Talented Education Program – Effective July 1, 2012, COMAR requires that each school system provide specific gifted and talented (GT) services to identified students in grades K – 12. In Carroll County, students are identified as gifted and talented beginning in the third grade and services are provided by a GT Resource Teacher. Students in grades K – 2 who exhibit GT behaviors may also receive supplemental services from the GT resource teacher. Middle school students who are identified as gifted and talented participate in supplemental learning activities during a “flex mod” class scheduled during the school day. High school GT students have the opportunity to tailor a four year learning plan to specific needs and talents. This plan may include advanced placement courses which will lead them to advanced post-secondary career and college opportunities.

Judy Center Partnership – The Judy Center Partnership is partially funded by the Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Family Education grant from MSDE. The program promotes school readiness for children birth through age five by fostering skills that help them be successful learners. Judy Centers are located at Robert Moton Elementary (administrative office), Taneytown Elementary, Cranberry Station Elementary, and Elmer Wolfe Elementary.

SCHOOL CAMPUS CONCEPT

Several school systems throughout the State of Maryland have taken advantage of the School Campus Concept as they have built new schools to accommodate their student populations. The School Campus Concept refers to the situation where an elementary and middle school; or a middle school and high school; or even an elementary, middle, and high school might be physically contiguous.

School systems in Maryland utilizing the School Campus Concept include, but are not limited to Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery, Frederick, and Washington County. In some of these systems, different levels of schools (e.g., elementary and middle in Howard County) may actually be housed within the same facility.

Advantages to School Campus Concept arrangements include:

- a. Improved articulation and transition between school levels.
- b. Advanced study opportunities.
- c. Cafeteria proximity fosters satelliting.
- d. Sharing facilities (e.g., larger high school gym and/or auditorium) for special program needs.
- e. Department chairpersons and faculties work closely in coordinated program and curricular offerings.
- f. Use of athletic fields and facilities.
- g. Older students may be used as tutors and mentors.
- h. Enhances opportunities for cultural programs.
- i. Improves efficiency of support services such as transportation and itinerant staff.
- j. Generally enhances communication and benefits to the students and community.
- k. Land acquisition costs should be reduced.

Disadvantages to this arrangement often relate to the mixing of age groups during non-school hours particularly where high school students may venture onto a middle or elementary campus and/or where students are driving and additional safety/parking problems might arise.

The continuation of the school campus concept, where more than one school is located on a campus, should be viewed as an acceptable practice as we address the need for planning new facilities and the procurement of future school sites in the next decade.

4/18/88

SCHOOL COMMUNITY CONCEPT

In addition to, and in direct correlation with, the feeder school concept is the community based school concept. In years past, each town had its own school because growth in Carroll County centered around the various municipalities. As population has increased, school sites have been acquired in areas of current and projected growth. In some cases, this has meant a new community school while, in other cases, the older community school has been abandoned or modified.

Currently, the Carroll County Master Plan calls for controlled growth limiting major development to those areas of the county with available water and sewer. As a result, increases in population will continue to center around those municipalities and planned growth environs having public water and sewer.

Plans for the placement of new or replacement schools throughout the county should take into consideration the Carroll County Master Plan objectives. Although the desire for community schools exists, the driving forces behind the selection of school sites should be the Master Plan, projected school enrollment and recommended grade organization. The majority of the municipalities in Carroll County which have historically had schools within their community will continue to have schools because they are in planned growth areas with water and sewer.

4/6/8

SCHOOL SITE STANDARDS

The selection criteria for school sites in Carroll County includes generally accepted standards for the size of each school campus. Older facilities throughout the county do not enjoy the benefit of the current standards and in some cases; campuses are significantly smaller than currently desired.

Extensive use of school facilities and grounds by the Department of Recreation and Parks contributes significantly to the justification for these standards. Additionally, it must be stressed that these size guidelines are defined as usable acreage for buildings, roadways, parking, and playfields. Recent environmental mandates and policies, including afforestation, reforestation, wetland delineation, and stormwater management, and the widely variable topography and geology in Carroll County, may increase the total size of the required acreage substantially.

Elementary School Sites: Until 1953, the guideline for elementary school sites was five (5) acres plus an additional acre for each hundred students to be accommodated (i.e., a 300-student elementary school required eight (8) acres). By current national guidelines an elementary site requirement should be calculated at 15 acres plus an additional acre for each 100 students to be ultimately accommodated, plus additional space for recreational use by the community, if such use is desired.

Middle School Sites: The guideline for middle school sites is twenty (20) acres plus an additional acre per hundred students. At 750 students, a middle school site should include at least 28 usable acres for buildings and fields.

High School Sites: The guideline for high schools is 40 acres plus an additional acre for each hundred students; at 1,200 students, the site needed for a senior high school would be 52 acres.

Physical features such as wetlands, and man-made features such as stormwater management facilities, while not part of the usable acreage, may be considered for use as environmental education tools on the school campus.

6/6/94

**Board Policies and Administrative Regulations Incorporated in the
Educational Facilities Master Plan**

Policy FA – Development of Educational Facilities Master Plan and Six Year Capital Improvement Program (<https://www.carrollk12.org/boe/Pages/Policies.aspx>)

Policy FB- Adequate Facilities (<https://www.carrollk12.org/boe/Pages/Policies.aspx>)

Policy JCAA – Boundary Adjustments (<https://www.carrollk12.org/boe/Pages/Policies.aspx>)

Policy EEA – Eligibility for School Bus Transportation
(<https://www.carrollk12.org/boe/Pages/Policies.aspx>)