

**MEMORANDUM**

October 26, 2022

TO: Health and Human Services Committee  
Education and Culture Committee

FROM: Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: Blueprint for Maryland's Future: Early Childhood Education and Related Early Care and Education Initiative Efforts

PURPOSE: Receive update on Blueprint and related ECEI efforts

**Expected Participants:**

- Dr. Patrick Murphy, Deputy Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
- Janine Bacquie, Blueprint for Maryland's Future Coordinator
- Nichelle Owens, Director, Division of Early Childhood and Title I Programs and Services, MCPS
- Amy Cropp, Director, Division of Prekindergarten, Special Programs, and Related Services, MCPS
- BB Otero, Special Assistant, Office of County Executive
- Raymond Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Dira Treadvance, Chief, Children, Youth and Family Services (DHHS)

In addition, Dr. Peggy Pugh, MCPS Chief Academic Officer, and Verna Washington, Supervisor, Pre-K programs, MCPS, are expected to attend the meeting.

**I. BACKGROUND**

***Blueprint for Maryland's Future***

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Blueprint) is the State's legislative framework to enable "Maryland's Pre-K-12 [education] system to perform at the level of the best-performing school systems in the world." It provides approximately \$3.8 billion of funding for a 10-year period to support specific policy recommendations in five key areas: high quality early childhood education and expansion; high-quality and diverse teachers and leaders; college and career readiness pathways; more resources to ensure all students are successful; and governance and accountability.

In 2021, the General Assembly overturned Governor Hogan’s original 2020 veto on the legislation and passed revisions to the Blueprint to account for both the delay in implementation and COVID 19 related impacts. Fiscal year 2023 is the first year in the 10-year Blueprint implementation period.

### ***Early Care and Education Initiative (ECEI)***

Prior to the enactment of the Blueprint legislation, the County made incremental improvements to access and availability of high-quality early care and education services, including expansion of full-day pre-kindergarten programs for vulnerable youth, and supports to center and family childcare providers. These ongoing early efforts culminated with the County Early Care and Education Initiative and four-year action plan announced in March 2019 by then Council President Navarro and the County Executive, in partnership with MCPS and Montgomery College.

The Initiative has been focused on significantly expanding the number of quality ECE seats in a mixed delivery system, ensuring the sustainability of family and center-based programs, increasing resources to providers and families, identifying existing unused or underutilized classrooms in high need areas, increasing utilization of local child care subsidies, and supporting recovery work during the COVID pandemic. FY23 is the final year of the four-year action plan.

The focus of the ECEI encompasses the whole system of early care and education from 0-5, of which the Blueprint pre-kindergarten efforts are a limited subset. The work of the ECEI in strengthening the sustainability of early care programs and increasing access to services in high needs areas contributes to the County’s ability to implement Blueprint requirements.

## **II. HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND EXPANSION SUMMARY**

The Maryland Commission on Innovation & Excellence in Education’s key policy recommendations as reflected in the Blueprint include:

- A mixed-delivery system (public/private) expansion of high-quality, full day prekindergarten programs;
- Expansion prioritized for 3 and 4-year-olds from low-income households;
- Public funding for both public-school based and community-based pre-K programs to meet rigorous quality standards;
- Increase in state-funded pre-kindergarten in community based settings;
- An increase of early childhood education teachers through assistance and financial support (Child Development Associate Credential or associate degree)

- Implementation of a new school readiness assessment for all students entering kindergarten;
- Expansion of Family Support Centers (pre-and post-natal support) and Judy Centers (early childhood education and support);
- Full funding of the Infants and Toddlers Program.

### **III. HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND EXPANSION PRESENTATION**

Montgomery County Blueprint Implementation Coordinator Janine Bacquie and MCPS leadership and staff will present recent action updates as well as address related issues under this key policy area. The presentation is attached at ©1-11.

Some of the key highlights of the presentation include:

- Final Blueprint comprehensive reporting criteria will be distributed to Local Education Agencies by December 1, 2022, with the Comprehensive Blueprint Implementation Plan due by March 2023.
- As of October 15, 2022, MCPS has enrolled 322 three-year-olds and 2920 four-year-olds in Head Start (part and full day), pre-kindergarten (part and full day), and special education pre-kindergarten (part and full day) programs.
- MCPS added 320 full-day seats in the current school year and plans to convert additional seats to full-day in School Year 23-24.
- MCPS is committed to increasing inclusive opportunities for preschoolers. Efforts include supporting community-based providers with direct service to students with IEPs, expanding inclusive classrooms, and increasing half day preschool special education classes to full day.
- Collaboration between MCPS and community-based providers continues with monthly meetings, curriculum support, coaching, teaching, and learning resources, particularly for special education and multi-lingual learners.
- The current Blueprint mandate of 30% state funded pre-kindergarten slots in community-based settings is met for FY23.

### **IV. EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION INITIATIVE PRESENTATION**

Executive staff will provide an update on systemic improvements that are part of the ECEI and contribute to the whole system of early care and education for children ages 0-5. Council staff understands that the work of the ECEI in FY23 includes efforts to assess the supply and demand of child care and the cost of quality child care in the County; to support capital financing and operational support for child care as part of a Community Development Financial Institution Fund process; to expand seats for children aging out of Head Start and in targeted high needs areas; and to continue ongoing efforts to support the sustainability of child care programs and provide access to high quality services.

Council staff notes that the work of the ECEI is responsive to concerns raised by the Early Childhood Coordinating Council, Commission on Child Care, and HHS Committee members at the October 26 HHS Committee meeting with the DHHS advisory boards, committees, and commissions.

Presentation materials were not available in time for analysis and inclusion in the packet but will be added as an addendum if they become available.

# **Maryland's Blueprint for the Future House Bill 1372 Update**

County Council ED/DHHS Committee  
Monday, October 31, 2022

# Five Blueprint Policy Areas for Mandated Reform

- **High-Quality Early Childhood Education and Expansion**
- High-Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders
- College and Career Readiness Pathways, including Career and Technical Education (CCR/CTE)
- More Resources to Ensure all Students are Successful
- Governance and Accountability

\*The Blueprint's overarching intent is to provide a "world-class" education for every student in MD.

## **Update: Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB)**

- The AIB held summer workshops on Pillar I (*Early Childhood Education and Expansion*)
- Draft Blueprint comprehensive report criteria was shared by AIB on October 13, 2022, followed by public hearing on November 10, 2022
- Final criteria for reporting will be distributed to LEAs by December 1, 2022. Comprehensive Blueprint Implementation Plan due by March 2023

# Enrollment

## Enrollment as of October 15, 2022

| Age | Head Start |          | Pre-K    |          | Special Education<br>Pre-K<br>Full/Part Day | Total |
|-----|------------|----------|----------|----------|---|-------|
|     | Full Day   | Part Day | Full Day | Part Day |   |       |
| 3   | 16         | 61       | 20       | 41       | 846   | 322   |
| 4   | 540        | 13       | 1,013    | 1186     | 724   | 2920  |

*Note:* 30 pre-K students could not be properly assigned due to missing sectioning data

*Data Source:* Montgomery County Public Schools Office of Shared Accountability



# Blueprint and Pre-K Expansion Grant

## SY22-23 Expansion

- MCPS Added 320 full-day seats, increasing access by 24%:
  - Added Two-Way Immersion at Kemp Mill ES (40 seats)
  - Braided funds to create two "mixed-income classrooms" at MacDonald Knolls ECC and Montgomery Knolls Elementary School including Head Start and Tier I eligibility

## Plans for SY23-24 Expansion

- Convert additional half-day seats to full-day classes in East County/Silver Spring, Gaithersburg, Germantown, and Olney
- Create full-day inclusive classes in newly renovated elementary school buildings: Stonegate and Woodlin ES

## **Expansion of inclusive practices**

- MCPS is committed to increasing inclusive opportunities for preschoolers
- Support to community based providers through direct service to students with IEPs
- There are 43 inclusive Pre-K classrooms in MCPS
- Expansion plans for FY 24 will include the expansion of inclusive classrooms and the expansion of more half day Preschool Special Education classes to full-day.

# Expansion of Inclusive Practices

- General and special education teachers and paraeducators participate in professional learning:
  - Pyramid Model social and emotional learning framework
  - Best practices for co-teaching
  - Implementing mathematics and literacy curriculum with modifications to meet the needs of all students
  - Job-embedded coaching provided to support all staff in best practices

## Collaboration with Partners

- New Pre-K expansion partnerships Teacher role facilitates ongoing collaboration with community partners
- serves as a resource/coach for 8 community partners
- Conducts monthly meetings with MCPS and community partners
- Provides curriculum support and shares professional learning opportunities
- Coaches and provides resources for teaching and learning with an emphasis on Special Education and Multi-lingual Learners.
- Provide support for CLASS assessment
- MCPS is working with DHHS early childhood Services and Montgomery College to explore pathways for teaching assistants to earn a CDA/associate's

## **Collaboration with Partners**

- MCPS collaborated with DHHS to host a Early Childhood Symposium on September 10, 2022
- MCPS collaboration with the following stakeholders
  - Early Childhood Coordinating Council (ECCC)
  - Early Childhood Coordinating Entity/Children's Opportunity Alliance
  - Early Care and Education Initiative Steering Committee
  - Early Care and Education Finance Committee
  - Early Care and Education Workforce Committee
  - Commission on Child Care
  - Community Action Board (Head Start) and MCPS delegate

# Blueprint mandate

Current Blueprint mandate is met for FY 23  
30% state funded slots in community based

| MCPS Pre-K<br>(Blueprint Funded) | 8 Community-Based Providers<br>(Pre-K Expansion Grant recipients) |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 240 Seats                        | 217 seats   |
| 52.5%                            | 47.5%   |

## **For Further information and to provide feedback:**

**To Provide feedback:**

**[Blueprintfeedback@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Blueprintfeedback@mcpsmd.org)**

**For More information:**

**<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/blueprint>**

**Access the AIB website:**

**<https://aib.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>**

**Access MSDE Blueprint webpage:**

**<https://marylandpublicschools.org/Blueprint/Pages/Overview.aspx>**

**ADDENDUM**  
**HHS/E&C COMMITTEE #2**  
**October 31, 2022**  
**Update**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

October 27, 2022

**TO:** Health and Human Services Committee  
Education and Culture Committee

**FROM:** Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst

**SUBJECT:** Blueprint for Maryland's Future: Early Childhood Education and Related Early  
Care and Education Initiative Efforts

**PURPOSE:** Receive update on Blueprint and related ECEI efforts

The purpose of this addendum is to provide Early Care and Education Initiative (ECEI) presentation materials at circles 23-28. Information was not available at the time of packet publication.

The presentation highlights the ECEI activities including Requests for Proposals and reports, major projects, and ongoing projects. Council staff notes that the presentation provides information on the development of a FY24-FY27 Action Plan, as FY23 is the final year of the four-year period originally envisioned by ECEI Leaders Councilmember Navarro and the County Executive.





# Early Care and Education Initiative

Update, October 2022







Maryland's Largest School District

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**MC**  
**MONTGOMERY**  
**COLLEGE**





# RFP's and Reports

- Supply and Demand Study – Released
- Cost of Quality Care Study – *In Procurement*
- Shared Services Process – Released
- Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI): Consultant - Released
- CDFI Fund - *In Development*

## Blueprint Advisory Committee

- ECEI steering and seven blueprint workgroups have developed recommendations on PreK
- Ongoing communication with coordinator focused on requirements that impact the child care workforce.

## Community-Based Head Start

- In progress for 34 seats for 3-year-olds aging out of Early Head Start
- Goal for 74 seats in the first year

## Child Care Subsidy Pilot

- In development in 3 target zip codes with 7 child care centers (up to 200 seats)
- Paying providers directly for subsidy seats at the cost of quality care and based on enrollment
- For families eligible for the State child care subsidy
- Planned January 2023 start

## Community Portal

- In progress - Phase 2 of 4 Phases
- Development of app with partners between phases 2 and 3



# Major Projects





# Ongoing Projects

- LENA: Shepard Pratt - Family Services/Family Discovery Center (early language development birth to 3)
- The Basics: at Collaboration Council (community outreach and public awareness on readiness birth to 5)
- Early Screening Project: Medical Outreach and referrals for services through The Infants and Toddler Program – in development
- Child Care Support/Sustainability – Business supports, no cost training, permitting fees, rent relief for CCIPS, marketing, outreach and communications
- Specific outreach and marketing campaign for WPA
- Scholarships at Montgomery College

# What's Next?

## Development of the FY24-FY27 Action Plan

- Steering retreat to reflect and prioritize
- Committees made recommendations
- Community forums and surveys

