

LSE PTA Advocacy Committee Update

January 16, 2025

School Additions

At the December CC BOE Meeting, the board approved an addition to Sykesville Middle School. Construction will take place from June 2026-August 2028. Quoted from the Schematic Design for Sykesville Middle school Report online: “The proposed project will provide a fourteen (14) classroom addition which includes three (3) science classrooms, two (2) flex classrooms, and one (1) special education intervention classroom; two (2) workrooms; four (4) resource rooms, and a special education conference room with office. The design calls for full renovation of the existing administrative office and health suite to provide additional office and conference space to for both administration and the guidance department. The health suite would be moved across the hall into the current Special Education Intervention classroom where there is already a restroom with a shower. A new Related Arts classroom will be provided in a renovated science classroom. The fine arts wing will also undergo a renovation to right size and better align the Art Classroom; FACS Classroom; and Physical Education spaces with the Education Specifications” (pg 18-19).

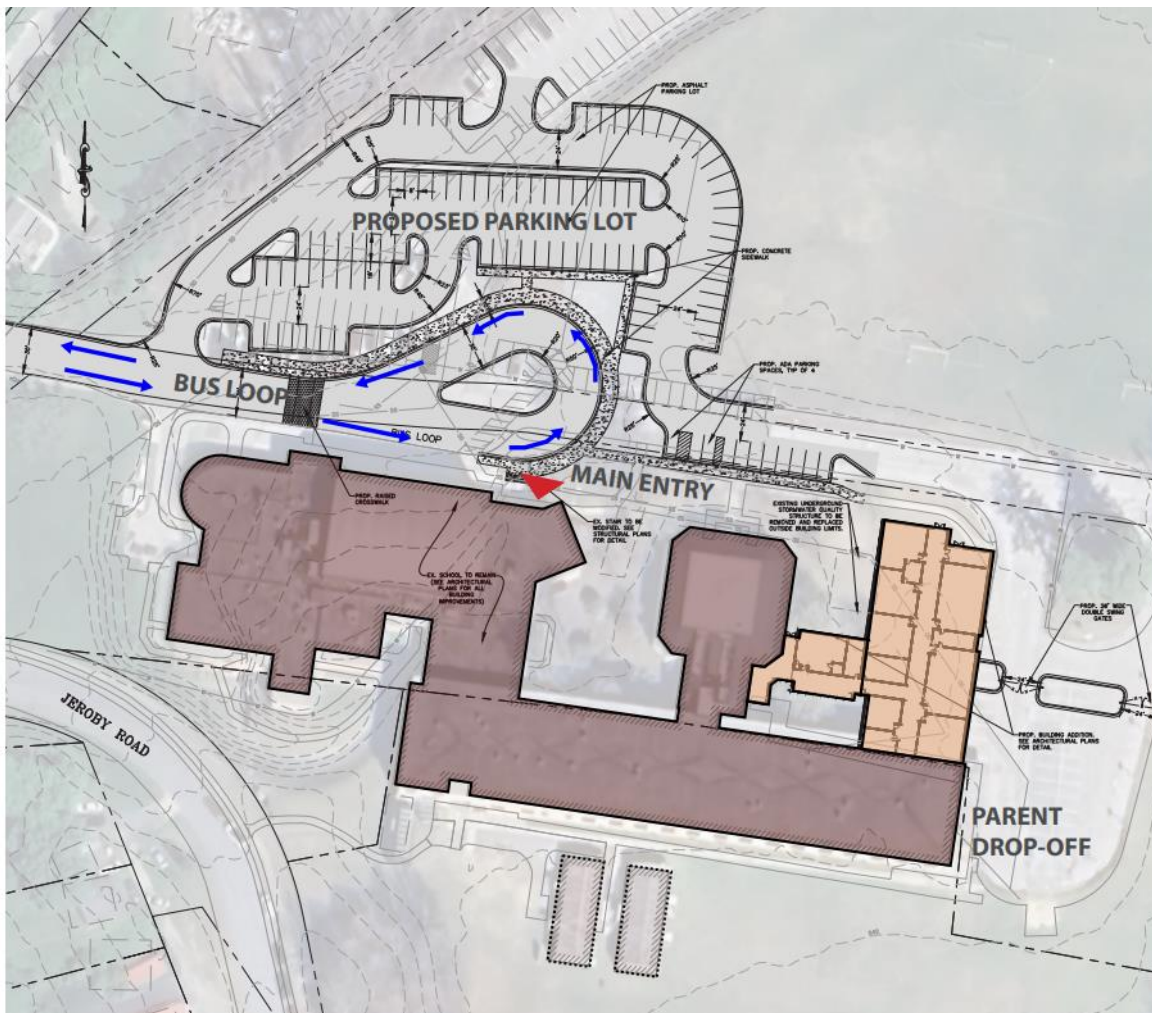


Figure 1: Planned changes at Sykesville Middle from Schematic Design Report (pg 41)



Figure 2: Proposed Floor plan for Sykesville Middle School (pg 43)

Full Details of Schematic Design available on CCPS website:

<https://share.carrollk12.org/sites/BoardDocs/BoardMeetings/2024/12-11-2024/Attachments/6.c/Approval%20of%20the%20Schematic%20Design%20for%20Sykesville%20MS%20Addition.pdf>

Blueprint

The LSE PTA Advocacy Committee has been following updates regarding the MD state law called the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. CCPS is struggling with the Fiscal Compliance portion of the Blueprint Law that requires minimum spending at the school level in areas of compensatory education, multilingual learners, and special education for students in those groups. With Governor Moore's support, the Blueprint Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) voted to relax the implementation timeline for collaborative time requirement – the part of the Blueprint specifying that teachers would teach 60% of the time and get 40% of the time for lesson planning, collaborating with other teachers, and evaluating student outcomes (Jones, Natalie. "Maryland Blueprint oversight board adjust timeline amid teacher shortage." *The Baltimore Sun*. January 12, 2025). Unfortunately for CCPS, the relaxing of the collaborative time requirement **does not** impact the Fiscal Compliance portion of the Blueprint and therefore will not prevent the shifting of teacher and staff resources from some CCPS schools to others. Any changes to the Blueprint law would need to be passed during this Session of the General Assembly which ends in early April 2025. Dr. McCabe summed it up well at the January CC BOE meeting, stating "we've heard no discussion or signaling that Fiscal Compliance by program area is being changed."

CCPS continues to move forward with the implementation of Blueprint, releasing the results of their "Blueprint Fiscal Compliance Workgroup" on January 8. Based on the financial analysis, CCPS anticipates a compliance gap of \$39m in compensatory education and \$5m in multilingual learners funding. Because the majority of the CCPS budget is used to pay for staffing, CCPS will be forced to move teachers and staff between schools in the county to be in Fiscal Compliance. To start, the Workgroup analyzed all CCPS schools for the percentage of compensatory education students (those students who

receive Free and Reduced Meals) at each school and grouped them into Tiers based on the ranges of percentages, as shown in Table 1. Tier 1 has the lowest percentage of compensatory education students while Tier 4 has the most. Linton Springs, Sykesville Middle and Century High are all considered Tier 1 schools, meaning that they have some of the lowest percentages of compensatory education students in the county.

Table 1: **Current** School Budgeted Classroom Teacher FTE, Student-Teacher Ratio, Comp Ed %, and Tier Placement (Source: Final Report of the Superintendent’s Blueprint Fiscal Compliance Workgroup, 1/8/2025)

School	FTE	Current Ratio	Comp Ed %	Tier
Carrolltowne Elementary	31.2	19.0	12%	1
Cranberry Station Elementary	29.4	19.8	41%	4
Ebb Valley Elementary	30.4	18.1	26%	3
Eldersburg Elementary	25.6	18.0	18%	1
Elmer A. Wolfe Elementary	28.4	16.4	42%	4
Freedom District Elementary	32.6	19.7	11%	1
Friendship Valley Elementary	27.2	17.6	29%	3
Hampstead Elementary	22.2	17.8	25%	3
Linton Springs Elementary	39.0	18.6	13%	1
Manchester Elementary	35.2	18.3	26%	3
Mechanicsville Elementary	26.8	17.9	16%	1
Mount Airy Elementary	21.4	21.4	20%	2
Parr’s Ridge Elementary	21.2	19.4	23%	2
Piney Ridge Elementary	30.4	18.5	20%	2
Robert Moton Elementary	22.6	17.0	57%	4
Runnymede Elementary	33.0	17.3	35%	3
Sandymount Elementary	32.8	17.1	25%	3
Spring Garden Elementary	24.4	17.9	33%	3
Taneytown Elementary	24.6	18.5	63%	4
Westminster Elementary	29.6	18.1	39%	4
William Winchester Elementary	30.8	19.0	36%	3
Winfield Elementary	39.0	17.2	20%	2
Mount Airy Middle	38.0	19.8	19%	2
North Carroll Middle	32.0	18.8	27%	2
Northwest Middle	36.0	17.9	47%	4
Oklahoma Road Middle	40.0	19.0	14%	1
Shiloh Middle	32.0	19.7	27%	2
Sykesville Middle	38.0	19.9	16%	1
Westminster East Middle	43.5	18.4	38%	4
Westminster West Middle	46.1	19.8	31%	3
Century High	52.5	20.6	17%	1
Francis Scott Key High	45.0	20.7	41%	4
Liberty High	51.4	19.5	14%	1
Manchester Valley High	63.7	21.5	26%	3
South Carroll High	48.0	19.5	20%	2
Westminster High	70.0	21.1	24%	2
Winters Mill High	51.3	22.2	35%	4

The Workgroup presented a new classroom teaching allocation standard to be implemented, beginning in secondary schools in FY26 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026), as shown in Table 2. During the presentation of the Report at the BOE meeting, CCPS emphasized that the new standard is a starting point but is not the final product, which is still being tuned by ongoing analysis. The new standard applies the same student-teacher ratio to all the schools at each level by their assigned Tier. CCPS plans to implement the staffing changes in FY26 at secondary schools (middle and high schools) followed by elementary schools the next school year in FY27. Linton Spring’s student-teacher ratio will increase from 18.6 to 25 beginning in FY27 (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027).

Table 2: **Future** Classroom Teacher Allocation Standard (Source: Final Report of the Superintendent’s Blueprint Fiscal Compliance Workgroup, 1/8/2025)

	Base School Standard			Tier 1 Standard			Tier 2 Standard			Tier 3 Standard			Tier 4 Standard		
	Comp Ed Range			Comp Ed Range			Comp Ed Range			Comp Ed Range			Comp Ed Range		
	Low %	High %	Ratio	Low %	High %	Ratio	Low %	High %	Ratio	Low %	High %	Ratio	Low %	High %	Ratio
Elementary	0%	5%	28.0	6%	19%	25.0	20%	23%	22.0	24%	36%	18.0	37%	100%	16.0
Middle	0%	5%	29.0	6%	18%	26.0	19%	27%	23.0	28%	32%	19.0	33%	100%	17.0
High	0%	5%	30.0	6%	19%	27.0	20%	24%	25.0	25%	31%	20.0	32%	100%	18.0

The Report notes the current FTE listed in Table 2 is for classroom teaching staff only:

- Homeroom teachers
- Academic subject teachers
- Related arts teachers (such as art, music, health, FACS, technology education, and physical education)

The FTE listed in Table 2 **does not** include:

- Special educators
- Media specialists
- Counselors
- Speech language pathologists
- Physical and occupational therapists
- Specialists
- Career coaches
- Mental health therapists

CCPS is continuing their analysis and plans to release a better idea of class sizes and staffing models at schools in mid-February 2025. They have indicated that changes to other school system positions will be necessary to meet Fiscal Compliance but further details are being worked out. Dr. McCabe plans to host several town halls beginning in March 2025.

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Employee Town Hall	March 4, 2025	5:00 pm	Career & Technology Center
Community Town Hall	March 5, 2025	6:00 pm	Century High School
Community Town Hall	April 2, 2025	6:00 pm	Career & Technology Center

[Watch the recording of the January CC BOE Meeting](#) from January 8, 2025 for the presentation of the Final Report of the Superintendent’s Blueprint Fiscal Compliance Workgroup. Specifically Dr. McCabe’s comments at the introduction of the presentation are relevant to understanding the challenges. The transcript of some of those comments is included here:

(Time 30:38) Dr. McCabe: “Before asking Mr. O’Neil and Mr. Shockney to present the workgroup’s report, I did want to comment on the scope of this aspect of the Blueprint. As I signaled two springs ago, **Fiscal Compliance within Blueprint Program Areas will mean sweeping changes to how our schools have been historically staffed and resourced.** The work group analysis bears that out. **Going though the process of achieving compliance and then operating schools will fundamentally impact every school in our school system.** It will take time to fully contemplate this process of change and completely understand every impact at the school level moving forward. That being said, I think when you and the public receive the report, you’ll see that the work group did their best to account for as many aspects of implementation as possible and provide us with a sound framework for this process.”

(Time 31:40) Dr. McCabe: “Lastly, I also want to comment on some of the discussion that has been occurring at the state level regarding potential alternations to Blueprint. Since the Governor’s remarks at the winter MACO Conference a few weeks ago, there has been much discussion and sometimes speculation. However, what we heard from the Governor and everything we have heard since does not in any way change the mandate from the State for Fiscal Compliance. The changes the Governor addressed have to do with the timeline for implementing the required teacher time aspect of the career ladder. We have heard some other discussion of potential changes to future implementation and fiscal impact of other Blueprint components. That being said, **we’ve heard no discussion or signaling that Fiscal Compliance by program area is being changed.**”