

Student Transportation

School bus transportation is provided for Harford County public elementary school students who live more than one mile from their school and for public secondary school students who live more than one and one-half miles from their school. Exceptions to this distance requirement may be made for children with physical or mental disabilities or where exceptional or hazardous walking conditions exist. Inquiries concerning these exceptions should be directed to the Transportation Office at 410-638-4092.

Tardiness and Absences

When students must leave school before the scheduled dismissal time or are absent from or late for school, their parents are requested to provide a written explanation to the school for such absences. Parents are contacted when children are absent or tardy in order to protect the safety and welfare of the students.

Graduation Requirements (Class of 2010)

Subject	Diploma
English	4
Social Studies+	3
Science^	3
Mathematics++	4
Fine Arts	1
Technology Education	1
Physical Education	1
Health	½
Career Pathway	4
Foreign Language OR Advanced Tech OR Successful Completion of State approved career/ tech program	2 4
Elective	½ - 2 ½
Total	26

Additional Requirements

- English courses in grades nine, ten, and eleven must be taken sequentially and a student may not enroll in the next grade level until he/she has passed the preceding one. The exception is English 12, which may be taken simultaneously with English 11, during the senior year.
- Eighth graders are given the option of registering for the Maryland State Scholars program. Check with local high school counselors for more information.
- To be eligible for a high school diploma, all students must complete the Maryland State Department of Education student service learning requirements as developed by the Harford County Public School System.
- Students must pass the applicable Maryland High School Assessment (HSA) at the end of the course in government, English 2, algebra 1, and biology, with a combined score of 1602, in order to receive a Maryland High School Diploma.

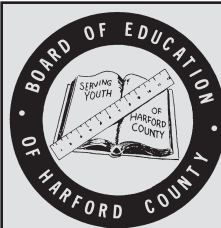
+ 1 in World History, 1 in U.S. History, 1 in Local, State and National Government
 ++ 1 with fundamental or advanced algebraic concepts; 1 with fundamental or advanced geometric concepts
 ^ Must include one credit in Biology

Students With Special Needs

Special Education services for students with disabilities are based on students' Individual Education Programs (IEPs) and are designed to complement the general education curriculum. The alignment of IEP goals and benchmarks with the general education content standards supports the students' participation in the Maryland State Assessment programs. The IEP guides the implementation of modifications and accommodations utilized to enable the students to access the general education curriculum.

Special Education services are available for all students ages birth through 21, as appropriate. There is a full continuum of services to meet the needs of students with educational disabilities in the least restrictive environment. These services are provided in all the community schools. The needs of the students with the most severe disabilities may be met at John Archer School.

For more information, visit www.hcps.org, contact the child's school, the Student Services office at 410-588-5334, or the Special Education office at 410-588-5246.



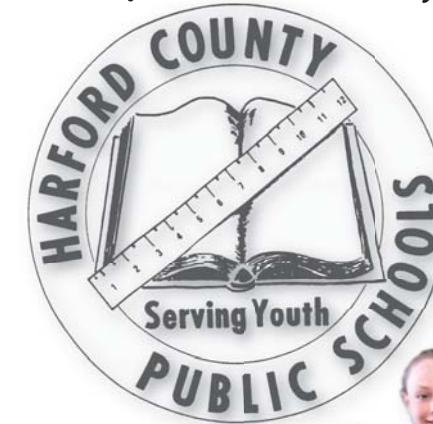
Board of Education

Senate Bill 629 (2009 Session of the Maryland General Assembly), effective July 1, 2009, changes the Board of Education of Harford County from a fully appointed Board to an elected/appointed Board consisting of six elected members and three members appointed by the Governor of the State of Maryland for four-year terms to be phased in over a period of time. For details on Senate Bill 629, visit mlis.state.md.us.

Regular meetings of the Board of Education are normally held on the second and fourth Monday of each month (except July and August) at 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. Special meetings may also be held throughout the year. All meetings are announced in advance on the HCPS website and in other print/electronic media including the Harford Cable Network (HCN). Meetings are open to the public unless otherwise announced. For correspondence directed to the Board, write President, Board of Education of Harford County, 102 S. Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, Maryland 21014. Board Business meetings will be televised on a tape delay basis by HCN on the second and fourth Tuesdays beginning at 8:00 p.m. on Comcast channel 21 and Armstrong (formerly Clearview) channel 7.

Getting Started with

Harford County Public Schools



www.hcps.org

A.A. Roberty Building
 102 S. Hickory Avenue
 Bel Air, Maryland 21014
 410-838-7300

From the Superintendent...



Welcome to the Harford County Public Schools. The purpose of this brochure is to give you some basic information about your school system that will be helpful as your child prepares to enter Harford County Public Schools for the first time.

You will find such items as where and how to register your child, what transportation services are provided, prices of school lunches, and procedures for closing schools due to inclement weather. Also, there is a brief description of the organization of the schools, the duties of the Board of Education, methods for addressing the special needs of children and other similar types of information.

We hope that this advance information will help make your child's entrance into school a pleasant and meaningful event. If you have any questions concerning the school system that are not answered here, visit our website at www.hcps.org. In addition, you can call our Communications Office at 410-588-5203, Elementary Education Office at 410-588-5207 or Secondary Education Office at 410-588-5228.

I wish to extend a warm welcome to you and trust that you will find your schools responsive to the needs of your child.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Tomback, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

Our Schools

Student Population: 38,610 (9/30/08)

Personnel: 5,276.65

Certificated - 3,434.20

Support - 1,842.45

The School System:

32 Elementary Schools

9 Middle Schools

9 High Schools

1 Vocational/Technical High School

1 Alternative Education Center

1 Special

TOTAL: 53 Schools

Registration

Children moving into the community during the school year or during the summer should register as soon as possible. Application for prekindergarten and kindergarten registration for students takes place on the first Friday in May. Other students can be registered at any time, however, parents/guardians are asked to call the school to arrange for an appointment for registering their children.

At the time of registration, parents/guardians are required to present a picture I.D. (driver's license, military I.D. or passport), the child's birth certificate, immunization record and proof of residency. All students must meet State immunization requirements before they may be admitted to school. A record of a Physical Examination is required for students who are entering a Maryland public school for the first time - either nine months prior to entering or six months after entering.

Please note: A child must be four by September 1st to be eligible for admittance to prekindergarten; and must be five by the same date to be eligible for admittance to kindergarten in the Harford County Public Schools. For details, visit www.hcps.org.

www.hcps.org

School Attendance Areas

The attendance area for each school in the county is designated by the Board of Education. Students must attend the school in the area in which they reside. The residence of the student is considered the same as the residence of his parents or legally appointed guardian. Any exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Board of Education. If you have any questions concerning the boundaries of a school's attendance area, call the school system's Transportation Office at 410-638-4092 for assistance. See the HCPS website for school attendance area maps (www.hcps.org) and to use the 'school locator' to determine school attendance areas.

Visiting Schools

Parents are invited to visit their child's school to observe classes in session and talk with teachers and other members of the school staff. In order to ensure that those with whom you wish to talk are available, it is advisable to call the school and make an appointment in advance of your visit. In the fall of each year, all county public schools observe American Education Week and make a special effort to encourage parents and other citizens to visit the schools. All visitors must register in the office and receive a visitors badge.

Food & Nutrition

All schools offer breakfast and lunch programs. Menus are distributed through the schools; announced via local newspapers, radio and television stations; and are on the HCPS website. Prices for student meals are as follows:

Breakfast	Elementary & Secondary	\$1.05
Lunch	Elementary	\$1.70
Lunch	Secondary	\$1.90

All menu items, plus additional snack items, are available for sale separately (i.e. milk - \$.40, bottled water - \$1.00, ice cream - \$.50, etc.).

HCPS participates in the USDA School Food & Nutrition Program, making it possible for some students to receive meals for free or at a reduced rate. Applications and guidelines for determining a student's eligibility are distributed at the beginning of the year and are available in your school's office and online, and parents may apply for benefits at any time.

Cafeterias are equipped with computerized cash registers which allow parents to put money on their child's account.

Emergency School Closings

Any change from the normal school schedule as a result of inclement weather (snow, ice, heat, etc.) **will be communicated to parents and employees through the AlertNow rapid telephone notification system**, through email and via radio and television stations. Parents should listen to one of the following stations when inclement weather conditions prevail. In addition, any emergency schedule changes will be available on the HCPS website and switchboard (listed below).

RADIO		
WAMD-AM	970	Aberdeen
WBAL-AM	1090	Baltimore
WCBM-AM	680	Baltimore
WSBA-AM	910	York, PA
WARM-FM	103	York, PA
WDAC-FM	94.5	Lancaster, PA
WERQ-FM	92.3	Baltimore
WLIF-FM	101.9	Baltimore
WPOC-FM	93.1	Baltimore
WXYV-FM	105.7	Baltimore
WWMX-FM	106.5	Baltimore
WXCX-FM	103.7	Havre de Grace

TELEVISION	
WMAR	Channel 2
WBAL	Channel 11
WJZ	Channel 13
WBFF	Channel 45

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410-838-7300