

Board of Education Update

Pillar 1: Early Childhood

- HCPS is focusing efforts to ensure Tier 1 four-year-old students have access to Pre-K in their area and supporting private providers seeking to participate in the Blueprint.
- HCPS currently has 800 public and 38 private pre-K seats. All HCPS Pre-K programs have achieved the highest ratings of EXCELS level five and are accredited by MSDE.
- As a Blueprint requirement, HCPS launched a pilot online Pre-K registration last year and will open it up to all for this coming registration period.
- HCPS supports any legislation that supports private Pre-K providers in accessibility to participate in the Blueprint.

Pillar 2: Elevating Educators

- The AIB has paused the "Collaborative Time" requirement in the Career Ladder, and the Governor's budget and proposed legislation also suggest pausing the associated per-pupil funding of \$163. Originally planned as an eight-year phase-in starting next year, this requirement aimed to allocate 60% of teachers' time to classroom instruction and 40% to small group instruction, professional development, and personal/collaborative planning. If enacted, this change would reduce HCPS's anticipated state funding by approximately \$5 million. HCPS opposes this proposal.
- HCPS is required to negotiate a Level 4 position on the Career Ladder this spring, with the final agreement due to the AIB by July 1, 2025.
- HCPS currently has 190 National Board Certified teachers, with 170 teachers pursuing certification.

Pillar 3: College & Career Readiness

- MSDE has released a proposed revision to the CCR standard, expanding the measures for students to achieve CCR status. The revised standard includes multiple options, such as meeting SAT/ACT score benchmarks, successfully completing two Dual Enrollment courses, or earning an industry-recognized credential. While HCPS supports these additional benchmarks for students, there is concern about the lack of alignment with graduation requirements and the potential confusion it creates for families. As this impacts many offices and efforts, we have had an internal collaboration meeting to provide comprehensive feedback to MSDE about their proposal.
- Pillar 3 continues to be the area in which our outcomes are all heading in a great direction for the benefit of our students. Successful completion of college level courses, apprenticeships, industry recognized credentials, and CTE pathways continues to increase.

Pillar 4: Supporting Students

- HCPS supports legislation requiring the state to conduct a study on Special Education funding. Special Education remains a critical area of focus for HCPS, as we continue to analyze funding needs, resource allocation, and program efficiencies. HCPS remains committed to advocating for policies that enhance Special Education funding and improve outcomes for all students.
- The governor's proposed legislation includes a pause in Community Schools funding and an allowance for use of funding for leadership needs. We are monitoring closely.

Pillar 5: Accountability & Foundations

- To meet the Blueprint requirement that 75% of per-pupil funding follows the student, HCPS has been required to submit a budget by location and report actual expenditures to MSDE monthly, starting in July 2024. The AIB received this data for analysis for the first time in December 2024. This year serves as a baseline, with LEAs expected to achieve 50% compliance by FY26 and full compliance by FY27. We are on track to meet the FY27 compliance deadline.