High-poverty elementary schools (those with 55% or more students from low-income families) are eligible to adopt Title I programs to raise the achievement of students by improving instruction.

Types of Title I programs:
- Targeted Assistance Program (TA) - additional funds are used to focus on a targeted group of students
- Schoolwide Program (SP) - all students can receive additional services. Students identified as most at risk are given additional assistance.

The designation of “priority school” is a local initiative to provide additional resources to schools who meet a certain criterion. Examples of information used to determine priority schools include teacher retention and staffing challenges. A priority school may receive additional resources, staffing, and professional development in the HCPS operating budget to support the critical needs of that school.

TSI school identification is based upon performance of specific student groups that scored below 34.44% of the schools’ earned points based upon the Maryland ESSA Accountability Framework during the 2017-2018 school year. HCPS is required to develop action plans which include evidence-based interventions to address identified needs for Targeted School Improvement (TSI) schools. The action plans must be developed by a diverse stakeholder group and have community partnerships to promote student achievement.

Community schools develop and utilize partnerships to connect the school, students, families, and surrounding community to the resources needed in order to thrive. At its core, the community school strategy is deeply rooted in equity; it highlights the assets in traditionally underserved communities and leverages additional partnerships to provide essential services. Maryland is home to more than 260 community schools throughout the State, serving students and families from birth to adulthood. Community schools work to provide access to health services, mental health support, academic enrichment, out-of-school time programming, crisis support, adult education classes, leadership development, and more. Community schools are identified in a grant process through MSDE.

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