



Serving Learners, Families, and the Community

CECIL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP CENTER
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CECIL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRESENTS BUDGET INFORMATION FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

ELKTON, MD (January 25, 2024) – Last evening, the Board of Education was presented with budget projections for the 2024-2025 school year. As a result of two grants (ESSER and Maryland Leads) ending, fiscal requirements and restrictions of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future legislation, and three years of Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding by the Cecil County government, the CCPS FY25 budget presents a revenue shortfall of nearly 20 million dollars. Absent additional revenue, CCPS forecasts unprecedented cuts to positions and programs in the education budget to address these fiscal challenges and ensure long-term financial stability.

None of the decisions for the proposed cuts were made lightly, and Cecil County Public Schools recognizes their impact on both staff and especially our students. The district has invested significant time in educating the community about these budget challenges and has conducted surveys to support their decision-making. Cecil County Public Schools remain committed to providing high-quality education and ensuring that every effort is made to minimize the disruption to students, teachers, and support staff.

Key points regarding the possible reductions include:

- **Impact on Positions:** There will be reductions in staffing across the system, including administrators, teachers, and support staff. The information shared included more than 150 position eliminations.
- **Program Reductions:** Major programs that have been identified for reductions and/or elimination from the budget include:
 - All County Chorus, Band, and Strings
 - State Music Festival
 - Student AP Exams
 - CTE Certification Exams
 - Fair Hill Nature Center partnership
 - North Bay Outdoor Field Trips for 6th-Grade Students
 - Junior Varsity and Middle School Athletics
 - Gifted and Talented Programs
 - Secondary Media Programs

Our Mission: *CCPS serves equitably through positive relationships as a safe, collaborative community. We will ensure all learners acquire the knowledge, skills, and qualities to be responsible, caring, and ethical citizens.*



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- Student Support Centers
- Secondary Twilight Program

In an email to all system employees sent on January 25, Dr. Lawson, Superintendent of Cecil County Public Schools, said the following:

“Last night, the Leadership Team shared with the Board of Education a staggering number of program and staff reductions that will have a devastating impact on our school system. After hearing that it will result in elimination of our Gifted and Talented program, Secondary Media Specialists, Middle School and JV Athletics, more than 150 positions, and more - the Board of Education directed me and the Leadership Team to craft a budget that reduces none of these programs and to provide the ensuing cost. It is critical to highlight that what we shared last night is premised on us receiving the dollars that we *know* we are getting. In other words, if the County Government funds us at the legal minimum for a fourth year, the cuts identified last night *will* happen. Subsequently, it is critical that we advocate for the needed programs and to avoid the identified cuts.”

Despite these challenges, Cecil County Public Schools understands the importance of a robust education system and remains dedicated to delivering quality education.

For further information or media inquiries, please contact: pio@ccps.org

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