

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

April 10, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Maryland State Department of Education Four-Year Cohort Dropout Rate

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with dropout rate data that was released by the Maryland State Department of Education on Friday, March 15, 2019. The four-year cohort dropout rate for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students for the Class of 2018 is 6.7 percent. This represents a 0.6 percentage point increase for the past year.

Table 1 of the Attachment provides trend data on the four-year cohort dropout rates for all MCPS students, by student subgroup, between two consecutive years displayed by a red up-arrow for an increase in dropout rate, a green down-arrow for decrease in dropout rate, and a yellow horizontal arrow meaning no change in the dropout rate between the two years. Also noted on the data table is a one-year and two-year rate change. The Class of 2018 experienced decreases in the dropout rate for Asian students, Black or African American students, students of Two or More Races, and students receiving Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS) services. All other student groups experienced increases in the four-year adjusted dropout rate, including All Students, Hispanic/Latino students, White students, students receiving special education services, and Limited English Proficient (LEP) students.

Table 2 of the Attachment provides the same dropout rate data displayed by the MCPS Equity Accountability Model Student Focus Groups. Decreases in the dropout rate were noted for the Non-FARMS – All Other student group, the Non-FARMS – Black or African American student group, the FARMS – All Other student group, and the FARMS – Black or African American student group. Increases in the dropout rate were noted for the Non-FARMS – Hispanic/Latino student group and the FARMS – Hispanic/Latino student group.

Table 3 of the Attachment provides trend data for each MCPS high school for the past four cohorts, also displaying a one-year and two-year rate change. Of particular note are the four high schools that experienced a decrease of greater than one percentage point in the dropout rate from the Class of 2016 to the Class of 2018. These schools are Seneca Valley High School (-3.4 percentage points), James Hubert Blake High School (-3.3 percentage points), John F. Kennedy High School (-1.5 percentage points) and Poolesville High School (-1.3 percentage points). Five other high schools experienced decreases in their four-year adjusted dropout rates during the same time period.

Students who are withdrawn as “Whereabouts Unknown” are considered dropouts. This includes students who moved out-of-state or out of the country and did not notify the school.

If you have any questions about these data, please contact Dr. Janet S. Wilson, associate superintendent, Office of Shared Accountability, at 240-740-2930.

JRS:JSW:amg

Attachment

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Ms. Webb

Table 1
Final Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Dropout Rate Trends for District by Subgroup for
Students in the Classes of 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018

	Class of 2015 FTNG 2012 Cohort		Class of 2016 FTNG 2013 Cohort		Class of 2017 FTNG 2014 Cohort		Class of 2018 FTNG 2015 Cohort		1-year Rate Change		2-year Rate Change	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
All Students	11124	5.7	11259	↔ 5.7	11431	↑ 6.2	11970	↑ 6.7	539	0.6	711	1.0
Asian	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Black or African American	2587	6.7	2566	↓ 6.1	2545	↑ 6.3	-	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Hispanic/Latino	2790	11.9	2853	↑ 12.3	3154	↑ 13.8	3507	↑ 15.7	353	2.0	654	3.4
White	-	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Two or More Races	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Special Education	1170	9.9	1187	↓ 8.5	1195	↑ 10.2	1183	↓ 8.6	-12	-1.6	-4	0.1
LEP	391	28.9	513	↑ 34.7	688	↓ 39.0	1132	↓ 36.3	444	-2.6	619	1.6
FARMS	2978	8.6	2867	↓ 8.1	3000	↑ 9.4	3117	↓ 8.0	117	-1.4	250	-0.1

Note. American Indian or Alaskan Native students and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students are included in the All Students group but not reported separately. LEP = Limited English Proficient. FTNG = First Time Ninth Grade. Change across cohorts is calculated from unrounded numbers and then the difference is reported to the nearest tenth. To comply with federal requirements, any percentage rates greater than or equal to 95.0% or less than or equal to 5.0% will be noted as ≥95.0 or ≤5.0, respectively and the N's will be suppressed using "--".

Table 2
Final Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Dropout Rate Trends for District by Focus Group for
Students in the Classes of 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018

	Class of 2015 FTNG 2012 Cohort		Class of 2016 FTNG 2013 Cohort		Class of 2017 FTNG 2014 Cohort		Class of 2018 FTNG 2015 Cohort		1-year Rate Change		2-year Rate Change	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
All Students	11124	5.7	11259	↔ 5.7	11431	↑ 6.2	11970	↑ 6.7	539	0.6	711	1.0
Non-FARMS - All Other	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Non-FARMS - Black or African American	1425	6.0	1434	↓ 5.6	1459	↑ 5.8	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Non-FARMS - Hispanic/Latino	1472	12.8	1591	↑ 13.8	1692	↑ 15.4	1942	↑ 20.0	250	4.6	351	6.2
FARMS - All Other	--	≤5.0	473	↑ 5.5	452	↑ 7.1	495	↓ 5.3	43	-1.8	22	-0.2
FARMS - Black or African American	1162	7.6	1132	↓ 6.7	1086	↑ 6.9	1057	↓ 5.6	-29	-1.3	-75	-1.1
FARMS - Hispanic/Latino	1318	10.8	1262	↓ 10.3	1462	↑ 11.9	1565	↓ 10.4	103	-1.5	303	0.1

Note. FTNG = First Time Ninth Grade. Change across cohorts is calculated from unrounded numbers and then the difference is reported to the nearest tenth. To comply with federal requirements, any percentage rates greater than or equal to 95.0% or less than or equal to 5.0% will be noted as ≥95.0 or ≤5.0, respectively and the N's will be suppressed using "--".

Table 3
Final Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Dropout Rate Trends by High School for
Students in the Classes of 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018

	Class of 2015 FTNG 2012 Cohort		Class of 2016 FTNG 2013 Cohort		Class of 2017 FTNG 2014 Cohort		Class of 2018 FTNG 2012 Cohort		1-year Rate Change		2-year Rate Change	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
All Schools	11124	5.7	11259	↔ 5.7	11431	↑ 6.2	11970	↑ 6.7	539	0.6	711	1.0
Bethesda-Chevy Chase	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Montgomery Blair	699	7.2	703	↓ 6.1	725	↑ 9.9	768	↓ 7.4	43	-2.5	65	1.3
James Hubert Blake	411	6.6	413	↑ 8.2	388	↓ 6.2	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Winston Churchill	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Clarksburg	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Damascus	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Albert Einstein	414	11.1	392	↓ 9.4	415	↑ 11.8	466	↓ 10.3	51	-1.5	74	0.9
Gaithersburg	554	11.2	542	↓ 11.1	544	↑ 13.6	589	↑ 17.2	45	3.6	47	6.1
Walter Johnson	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
John F. Kennedy	416	8.2	355	↑ 11.6	378	↓ 11.4	426	↓ 10.1	48	-1.3	71	-1.5
Col. Zadok Magruder	409	5.9	396	↑ 6.8	365	↓ 6.0	397	↑ 7.1	32	1.0	1	0.2
Richard Montgomery	554	6.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Northwest	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Northwood	390	11.0	368	↑ 13.6	407	↑ 15.0	413	↓ 14.8	6	-0.2	45	1.2
Paint Branch	480	6.0	519	↑ 6.2	487	↑ 6.4	504	↑ 9.1	17	2.8	-15	3.0
Poolesville	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Quince Orchard	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Rockville	319	6.6	309	↓ 5.8	--	≤5.0	368	↑ 5.2	--	--	59	-0.7
Seneca Valley	322	9.9	297	↑ 10.1	290	↓ 7.6	314	↓ 6.7	24	-0.9	17	-3.4
Sherwood	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Springbrook	416	7.2	413	↓ 7.0	452	↑ 7.1	472	↑ 9.3	20	2.2	59	2.3
Watkins Mill	--	≤5.0	358	↑ 6.2	387	↑ 7.0	411	↑ 12.9	24	5.9	53	6.8
Wheaton	308	11.0	349	↑ 11.2	371	↑ 15.9	429	↑ 16.1	58	0.2	80	4.9
Walt Whitman	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--
Thomas S. Wootton	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	≤5.0	--	--	--	--

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