

A History of State-Rated and Howard County Program Capacity

September 21, 2017

- In 1992, when APFO first began, state-rated capacity was 120 percent of county program capacity. Since school funding was tied to state-rated capacity, which reflected core school space, Howard County's APFO was based on that rate (see the attached news clip from 1992).
- In 1992, county program capacity was calculated simply (25-to-1 student/teacher ratio). State-rated capacity was also calculated simply (30-to-1 student/teacher ratio), thus the derivation of the 120 percent as shown in the first bullet – 30 divided by 25.
- In the 2003 APFO year, a middle schools test was added to APFO and middle schools were deemed closed at 115% county program capacity. Also at that time, the elementary district and elementary region tests were changed to 115 percent of county program capacity, which severed the County's use of state-rated capacity.
- Since 2003, the formulas for determining both state-rated and county program capacities became more complex by adding variables for actual space, design, use, etc. Given this complexity, program capacity calculations vary significantly from school to school—in some schools, state-rated capacity is higher than county program capacity and vice-versa.
- Therefore, the original comparison of state-rated capacity being 120 percent of county program capacity no longer applies.