

My name is Alex Horn, I live at 10509 Tolling Clock Way, and I am a freshman at Wilde Lake High School and I am here to advocate for more funding for the school system so they can help support students with mental health needs. There is a huge mental health aspect to starting schools later. In fact, for mental health, researchers have seen for that every hour earlier that schools start, the odds of teens feeling sad and hopeless increased by 38%, of reporting serious suicidal ideation increased by 42%, and of having already attempted suicide increased by 58%. In Howard County, the Maryland Department of Public Health found that 26% of my fellow high schoolers felt sad or hopeless, 16% considered attempting suicide, and 14% had a plan on how they would kill themselves. they can start schools later. I conducted a simple survey of my classmates on their opinion on this issue and the amount of sleep they get. An overwhelming majority, 72% of students support starting schools later. But I also got incredibly alarming results for the amount of sleep students get. I found that the average amount of sleep my classmates got a night was approximately 5 hours and 45 minutes. This means that my classmates are losing 3 and a half hours of sleep a night, or 38% of the 9 hours and 15 minutes needed to be healthy. In fact, no one I surveyed got that much sleep. This means that we are racking up 17.5 hours of sleep debt a week. According to the Youth Behavior Risk Survey, which was conducted by the Maryland Department of Health, less than a quarter of students were getting even 8 hours of sleep. 10 out of my 27 classmates surveyed got less than 6 hours of sleep, which means that according to research published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), we are twice as likely to use tobacco, alcohol, or marijuana, and over three times as likely to exhibit depression symptoms and risk self harm. This should be treated as an emergency but it has a very simple solution. By not starting schools later, we are going against the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as many other health organizations.

So when you are casting your vote on this budget, please consider the mental health benefits of Starting Schools Later.

**Nashrah:**

Hello, my name is Nashrah Rahman, I'm a sophomore at Mt Hebron High School, and in the Howard County Teen Interfaith Initiative, a group working with PATH.

This evening I'm going to express our concerns regarding mental health in our County. As a teen in the Howard County public school system, we are constantly dealing with stress in order to balance all of our daily activities, such as school and homework, sports, playing an instrument, family, etc. In turn, this can negatively affect our mental health as we're developing both emotionally and physically, which can lead to bigger issues such as anxiety or depression.

We need to bring more attention to these issues, as they're more serious than the school system is recognizing. HCPSS needs as much funding as possible for mental health services.

We need to take action now, to help our students who are already battling poor mental health. When students don't have resources in school they can trust, it typically leads to them either bottling up their emotions or resorting to their friends for help.

There are a few problems with this: keeping to ourselves in times when we need support will only make it harder for us, and when dealing with a friend who is struggling with their mental health, realistically there's only so much we can do for another teenager. We're already dealing with our own problems by ourselves.

This is very common because a majority of students feel they can't go to their families when it comes to issues dealing with their mental health, so schools should provide that guidance for us. Some families don't really understand the matter, or they aren't willing to provide better help for their child.

Mental health is a silent problem that is resulting in losses of loved ones for far too many of us. It is time to abandon our ignorance and take action.

Howard County Teen Interfaith Initiative  
A program of PATH

[www.pathiaf.com](http://www.pathiaf.com)

Contact: Rev. Louise Green, [lgpathiaf@gmail.com](mailto:lgpathiaf@gmail.com)

**Vaniya:** Hello, my name is Vaniya Khan, I'm a sophomore at Wilde Lake High School, and also in Howard County Teen Interfaith Initiative, a group working with PATH.

Teenagers can be genuinely insecure and tend to overthink everything. This is a factor which impacts mental health incredibly. Even though the things we think about ourselves aren't necessarily true, once we convince ourselves enough, it seems like our reality. It is very challenging to change that mentality once you have it established.

Essentially, you become your biggest hater when you're depressed. I know from my own personal experience, and I'm diagnosed with depression. Around a year ago, my best friend was suicidal, and she told nobody but me. Eventually, our friends found out but didn't do much. I felt pressured to make sure she was okay at all times, and I was constantly living in the fear that maybe I would lose her sometime soon as she wasn't receiving the help she needed.

The counselors at our school checked her wrists for any scars, which she did have, and then sent her back to class. Had we had access to better resources in school, they wouldn't have brushed off my friend's obvious self-harm. They should have at least checked up on her more often.

I felt like I was responsible for her because nobody else, even adults, were acknowledging she needed help. I felt terrible, which then resulted in my grades dropping, I lost motivation for everything, and my relationship with my family wasn't the best either.

My point isn't to call out the guidance counselors. They just aren't effective enough since there are so many students in a school and such few counselors. We need to provide better funding for the sake of our students. Mental illnesses are a tough battle to deal with, and many people deal with them their entire lives.

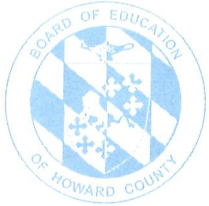
If we work towards offering more effective mental health resources in schools, we can make our schools a more comfortable environment for students once again. We need maximum funding to expand the resources available at HCPSS.

Thank you.

Howard County Teen Interfaith Initiative  
A program of PATH

[www.pathiaf.com](http://www.pathiaf.com)

Contact: Rev. Louise Green, [lgpathiaf@gmail.com](mailto:lgpathiaf@gmail.com)



**Board of Education  
of Howard County**

Mavis Ellis  
*Chair*

Kirsten A. Coombs  
*Vice Chair*

Vicky Cutroneo

Christina Delmont-Small

Jennifer Swickard Mallo

Sabina Taj

Chao Wu, Ph.D.

Ambika Siddabathula  
*Student Member*

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent  
Secretary/Treasurer*

**Board of Education Testimony  
Howard County Council Budget Hearing  
Wednesday, April 24, 2019**

Good evening, Chairperson Rigby and members of the Council. I am Mavis Ellis, Chair of the Howard County Board of Education. On behalf of the entire Board, I appreciate this opportunity to represent the Board and the school system, and to advocate for the county's 58,000 public school students.

Our county's excellent school system drives a significant portion of our local economy and attracts many residents and businesses to our county. Next year we must be ready to welcome nearly 1,000 new students with sufficient teachers, supplies, and space. The additional funding needed to provide these essentials for new students is not covered by Maintenance of Effort. Annual enrollment increases have continued year after year and are expected to continue, so the lag in MOE funding levels behind actual needs will continue to accumulate.

Our students' success is a direct outcome of the work of the most highly skilled teachers and staff in the state. Our FY 2020 budget must cover negotiated salary increases and rising benefit costs, to provide compensation that is consistent with their training, experience and commitment, and to continue to attract highly qualified candidates to our county.

Sustaining the excellence of our schools requires sufficient resources to prepare each child for success in a rapidly evolving, global environment, and to serve the needs of the growing numbers who struggle with poverty, language barriers and other challenges to learning and achievement.

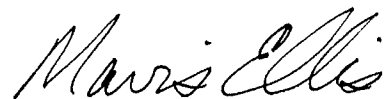
Ten years ago, issues like mental health, restorative and inclusive supports, and support for international families were not a priority of this system and funding was not requested. Today, we face a very different reality and these issues impact the academic and social-emotional progress of our children.

Our operating budget request identifies the minimal level of funding needed to meet our obligations, maintain class sizes at current levels in the face of rapid enrollment growth, and begin a multi-year plan for fulfilling critical needs. These investments are critical for our children's future and for the continued financial prosperity of our entire county.

Our capital budget includes funding to support construction of a replacement Talbott Springs Elementary School, scheduled to open in fall 2022; construction of our county's 13th high school, targeted to open in fall 2023; and a renovation and addition to Hammond High School, scheduled for completion in fall 2023. These upgrades will provide much needed relief for overfilled schools, and provide for facilities well-suited to instruction and student needs.

Last year we faced funding challenges that required very tough compromises. This year again, if we don't receive enough funding to meet the Board's obligations, we will be faced with class size increases, construction delays and other difficult choices that will disappoint our community and short-change our children. We must do everything within our power to provide them with the necessary supports and resources, so that they may thrive in school and will realize success beyond.

The FY 2020 budget is more than just a school system budget – it is our community's budget for the future of our children and our county. The Board of Education looks forward to working collaboratively with the County Council in making bold decisions to meet the needs of all students in the Howard County Public School System.



Mavis Ellis

Chair

Board of Education of Howard County



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION  
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Maivis Ellis, Chair, have been duly authorized by  
(name of individual)

Howard County Board of Education to deliver testimony to the  
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding HCPSS Budget to express the organization's  
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.  
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Maivis Ellis

Signature: Maivis Ellis /ek

Date: 4/17/19

Organization: Howard County Board of Education

Organization Address: 10910 Clarksville Pike,  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Number of Members: 8

Name of Chair/President: Maivis Ellis

*This form can be submitted electronically via email to [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.*

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D., Superintendent

### **Superintendent's Testimony Howard County Council Budget Hearing – Wednesday, April 24, 2019**

The Howard County Public School System greatly appreciates the historically strong support we have received from our county government leaders, and your shared commitment to ensuring educational excellence.

We understand the fiscal pressures faced by our county government in funding many deserving agencies and priorities. But as a community, we must be realistic in expecting that school enrollments will continue to grow, year after year. HCPSS is adding, on average, a thousand students each. The Baltimore Sun reported this week that according to the U.S. Census Bureau Howard County had the largest population growth over the last eight years.

At the same time, we know that a large and growing proportion of our students struggle with poverty, disabilities, mental health issues and language barriers. We must recognize the challenges in competing for and retaining excellent staff from among a shrinking pool of highly qualified educators, and even smaller numbers of diverse applicants, in a very competitive market.

We are still reviewing and analyzing the County Executive's budget proposal and have requested some clarity from the budget office. Our initial analysis indicates that the proposed budget amount will not fulfill our contractual obligations, maintain fiscal strength in the health fund, or advance any of our priorities. Based on the proposed budget, we are looking at a shortfall of \$28 million just to fulfill these obligations and maintain the stability in the system's health fund. I want to note that we were clear about what these obligations were at the time the Board approved the budget request. Attached to my testimony is a one-pager that highlights those obligations.

This shortfall does not take into account any programmatic opportunities, later school start times, or any of the supports we had hoped to add over the next four years for our diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, restorative practices implementation, and student mental health and well-being.

Over the last two years, the system has undergone a significant reorganization, reducing administrative functions and cutting programs. With a shortfall this big, cutting things like pencil and paper and other small items won't make a difference. We will need to look at broader programmatic cuts or look to increase class sizes. For informational purposes, an increase of one student added to class size would generate approximately \$6.65 million in savings.

Two years ago, I inherited a system in chaos. Through our work over the last two years, we have stabilized the system and eliminated structural fiscal issues. We cannot backtrack on that progress.

For our Capital Budget, the funding proposed by the County Executive would be insufficient to keep our three major projects on track for their scheduled delivery dates, and would require us to make some very tough compromises. These projects include the replacement Talbott Springs Elementary

School, slated for completion in fall 2022; New High School #13, targeted to open in fall 2023; and the addition/renovation project at Hammond High School, scheduled for completion in fall 2023.

While the funding is sufficient to keep the projects moving forward in FY2020, challenges exist in future years. The funding needed for the subsequent few years to complete these projects would be more than double the current proposed budget. Considering the constraints and recognizing that it is unlikely we can keep all three projects on schedule under current funding levels, we must be up front with the community and provide an accurate assessment of realistic schedules and likely delays.

We are at the point where hard choices are inevitable. Our community must either commit to providing the resources necessary to meet growing enrollment, increasing student needs and the essentials for a 21st century education; or accept the fact that educational quality and services will inevitably suffer if starved for a lack of sufficient funding. Our community must decide how strongly committed we truly are to sustaining school excellence, by making the investments that are essential to bring our vision for our children's future into reality.

Our school system is extremely fortunate in having a remarkable combination of assets, including strong community engagement, highly skilled educators, and county leaders who are deeply committed to education. It is time now to look at how we can provide sustainable revenues so we not only maintain our excellent school system but can begin to provide the necessary supports for our students and families that we as a community know to be critical.

I am grateful for the consistent support you have expressed for our schools, and look forward to our continued collaboration in building an even brighter future for our students.

Michael J. Martirano  
Superintendent





# HCPSS FY 2020 Budget

The Board's budget request represents an increase of \$52.3 M in county funding and a one-time ask of \$37 M to eliminate the health fund deficit. This request addresses the Board's **obligations** and begins to address some of the **needs** articulated in the Superintendent's originally proposed budget, scaled over several years. In addition to the requested funds, the budget incorporates \$283.4 M in state and federal appropriation and other funding. The request for county funds includes \$10.8 M for Maintenance of Effort based on a state formula to support enrollment growth from last year.

## Why MOE Funding is Not Enough

Maintenance of Effort (MOE) would only provide a \$10.8 M increase which cannot support our FY 2020 enrollment growth, the Board's commitments or address our needs. This level of funding will require the Board to make significant cuts and decisions that will impact the financial stability of the school system, including:

- Staffing remaining at FY 2018 levels
- Addition of \$11.1 M to the health care deficit already at -\$37 M
- Class size increase across all levels
- Reduction of \$11.1 M through program reductions and staff cuts

## What Are the Board's "Obligations"?

The Board of Education's FY 2020 obligations include \$32.7 M for negotiated salary increases, \$11.1 M to fully fund benefits and health fund requirements and \$10.7 M in staff and resources for expected enrollment growth.

## What Needs Will Be Addressed Beyond Obligations?

### Special Education

\$5.8 M for 144.7 positions to account for student growth and needs, including teachers, paraeducators, speech pathologists and occupational therapists to begin a 10-year process that aligns staffing to current formulas.

### Mental Health and Well-Being

\$2.7 M for 34 positions, including school social workers, psychologists, counselors, nurses and others to begin a 6-year process to support growing numbers of students and staff affected by mental health, social-emotional and behavioral issues.

### Restorative and Inclusive Supports

\$425,000 for 3 positions to accelerate implementation to institutionalize restorative practices and equity work into the curriculum and culture giving our work more permanency and making it more sustainable.

### Program Innovation and Technologies for the 21st Century Workforce

\$2.8 M to provide equity in classroom technologies and enhance learning and career options.

### Addressing Deferred Maintenance

\$8.1 M for essential upgrades and maintenance of school buildings, grounds, vehicles and facilities showing the impact of long and heavy use.

### Supports for Families

\$520,000 to expand supports for minority and international students and those impacted by poverty.

### Balancing Capacity and Changing Start Times

\$1.1 M for software to improve transportation routing and a redistricting consultant to support comprehensive boundary line adjustments and adjust start times.

## FY 2020 Operating Budget Public Input Opportunities

**March 5 - 7:00 p.m.** County Executive Public Hearing on FY 2020 Budget

**April 24 - 7:00 p.m.** County Council Public Hearing on Board of Education's Requested Budget

**April 25 - 7:00 p.m.** Board of Education Public Hearing on Requested Budget

For complete information about the budget and to testify at upcoming public hearings, visit:  
[www.hcpss.org/budgets](http://www.hcpss.org/budgets)

Good Evening, My name is Carleen Pena and I live on Summer Leave Lane in Kings Contrivance, just a couple of blocks behind Hammond High School which is why I am here tonight.

I am asking that you vote in favor of Dr. Ball's Capital Budget including the much needed and often delayed renovation and addition to Hammond High.

This project will bring 200 new seats to the which are desperately needed by the county. It will also address many significant deficiencies in the facility.

The Hammond renovation was originally scheduled to have been completed last year, however the project was repeatedly pushed back and delayed. I was rather naive at the time and thought that if other projects were being moved ahead of Hammond, they must have a greater need. Then I learned of the comprehensive facility assessment conducted in 2007 where every school in the county was rated and Hammond came in third from the last. The 2 schools rated below Hammond were renovated and Hammond was repeatedly delayed even as schools that rated above Hammond received renovations.

Hammond is the only high school in the county without an auxiliary gym. This becomes an issue when PE classes are forced to double or triple up and our student athletes lose a full 2 weeks of practice per season due to shorter practices as they have to share only one gym. Virtually every academic area in the school is undersized. Our amazing music department, which has been steadily growing, is too small by 25%. GT is undersized by 58% . But the worst deficiency by far has been borne by our most vulnerable students. Our Special Education department is undersized by over 63%, over 3200 square feet missing, That's about the size of my 5 bedroom house, and just one department.

Please ensure that this project moves forward without any additional delays by fully funding the Capital Budget request.

Good Evening. Thank you Council Members for giving me this opportunity to speak.

We are all here tonight to ask you for funding consideration of many worthwhile projects, I am no different. There is current and projected tremendous growth for HCPSS and there is incredible pressure to find space and provide services so that each and every student can benefit from the outstanding quality education received through the HCPSS. But as a county, we can-**not** forget that our school system is also aging at the same time it is growing. We shouldn't and can't ignore that we need to renovate and keep current schools up to education standards.

In particular I ask that you be mindful of one school that should have had their renovations completed at this time, as they were originally budgeted for completion in 2018, but have been continuously put off, year after year. I have testified to the prior council outlining all the reasons Hammond High School is in need of renovations (without even touching on the projected growth in the eastern section of the county) so tonight I will just highlight a few of those reasons:

The Gilbert Study done in 2008, found that Hammond High School did not meet minimum education standards. In fact when you compare the deficiency rating for all the schools in the county, Hammond ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> worst. Both schools that ranked lower, have been renovated. In fact the schools that ranked 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> have all already been renovated...

The primary Hammond High deficiencies identified in the 2008 Gilbert study include:

The special education program area is undersized by 63%, the GT program area is undersized by 58%, the student support center is undersized by 42%, the health suite is undersized by 17.3%, there is no space or office for students to receive speech, occupational or other therapy services, there is no auxiliary gym and the current gym's floor cannot be resurfaced again, the report goes on... it is a true testimony to the Hammond staff and community that they are able to make the current building work as seamlessly as they do. There is a reason Hammond has received the Board of Education's teamwork award as many times as they have. It takes unbelievable teamwork to make it all work and yet still be nationally recognized as the amazing school that it is, as a school of opportunity that promotes the best in every student that attends.

We are incredibly thankful to the HCPSS staff and Board of Education for their correction of the oversight of Hammond's renovation, by including and passing an amended FY 2019 Capital Budget and FY 2020-2025 Capital Improvement plan and to Executive Ball for including money for planning for a renovation and addition to Hammond High in this budget. I ask that you do the same and fully fund the Hammond High School project.

Thank you,

Jennifer Lastova

My name is Stephanie Reid, and I live in Howard County, a school district that many consider “high performing.” I represent an ever-growing group of parents of children who have struggled to learn to read and write. Because Howard County schools do not screen for reading difficulties, our children are not being identified as having reading challenges or having dyslexia until late in their schooling.

The critical period for literacy development is before the age of 8 when the brain is more responsive to instruction. An intervention that takes a half hour in kindergarten will require 2 hours in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade to yield similar results. If our children had been screened, we would have known about their reading risks earlier and been able to help them in kindergarten when it would have been the most impactful. Further, we could have avoided the need for special education. The expense of reading failure when kids have gone unidentified for years is exponential, and much more difficult and costly to correct.

Even when parents have born the expense of getting private psychological testing that clearly shows a child has dyslexia and/or dysgraphia, the school system routinely denies eligibility for special education services. Moreover, even if a child is found eligible for special education, the school system does not have evidence-based interventions available to help dyslexic children.

Maryland schools are required to provide children with a free and appropriate education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The emotional and financial cost to families with children who have learning differences is exorbitant. Private neurological evaluations can cost up to \$3,000. For children with dyslexia, private tutoring costs \$80-\$100 per session with some receiving two to three sessions per week. If

students require more intensive instruction throughout their school day, tuition at schools specializing in reading/language disabilities ranges between \$25,000-\$35,000 per year. Very few families are able to bear these costs.

With dyslexia being hereditary, for many families, these costs must be multiplied by the number of children suffering from reading difficulties. Alternatively, parents are forced to choose which child receives help--an agonizing decision that no parent should have to face. If the school system screens for reading difficulties and implement evidence-based reading interventions, children and their families would not be denied the protections of IDEA.

The Ready to Read Act, which will be effective in the 2020-21 school year, provides the requirements to proactively address the reading problem in Maryland. It provides an evidence-based framework of reading screening, ongoing formal assessments, progress monitoring, and interventions will give students help as early as possible to prevent reading difficulties. The prevention framework addressed in the Ready to Read Act will also provide benefits to English learners, students at risk for reading difficulties, and students living in poverty.

The Howard County Public School System must fund universal screening for all children so we can identify children who are struggling and provide them with appropriate instruction. The County Council has the ability to ensure that the funding necessary to implement the Act with fidelity is provided so that all children can learn to read.



**Oakland Mills Community Association**  
**The Other Barn • 5851 Robert Oliver Place**  
**Columbia, MD 21045**

410-730-4610 • oaklandmills.org



**April 24, 2019**

**Howard County Public School System Operating and Capital Budgets**  
**Testimony from the Oakland Mills Board of Directors**

My name is Jonathan Edelson, I am the Chairman of the Oakland Mills Community Association and am speaking tonight on its behalf. Thank you, councilmembers, for the opportunity to provide testimony at this budget hearing.

The Oakland Mills Community Association strongly encourages you to fund the County Executive's proposed HCPSS Operating Budget fully. Over the past several years, the school system has struggled with smaller budgets relative to its attendance growth and the evolving needs of an ever-more diverse student population. There have been cuts throughout the system, but these cuts are felt most acutely in places like Oakland Mills, where our schools have some of the highest proportions of children receiving meal assistance, English Language learners, and racial and ethnic minorities. I've cited these statistics in the past and can make them available again upon request, but for now I will remind you that the groups I just mentioned tend to have lower test scores and graduation rates than the county averages.

Over the past few years, we have seen cuts specifically to programs designed to address these achievement gaps. All that is left of the Elementary School Model is all-day pre-K, and even that was considered for a cut last year. The Reading Recovery Program, which targeted individual students early in their academic careers was cut to spread more reading specialists throughout the county. Spreading resources more thinly is unlikely to address achievement gaps requiring targeted intervention. The school system's Operating Budget should support every student, but it should also support each student, thus recognizing unique needs and the stark differences among some of the county's schools. This is the definition of an equitable operating budget, and we encourage you fund what is before you fully and to work with the school system and the County Executive to ensure that future school budgets address the growing needs and gaps in our county.

The Oakland Mills Community Association thanks the Board of Education, the Superintendent, and the County Executive for their ongoing support of the full rebuild of Talbott Springs Elementary School. The original parts of this building, including critical systems, have gone unrenovated since it opened. Other investments have been made solely for the purpose of meeting requirements – such as providing appropriate space for all day Kindergarten years ago. We strongly encourage you to fund the county's share of the full replacement of Talbott Springs Elementary School in the Capital Budget.

We also encourage you to ensure that the school system is a good and responsible steward for the funds you allocate. Based on data I have compiled, I estimate that about 19 percent of all of the deferred maintenance on school facilities is concentrated in three schools in Oakland Mills – Talbott Springs as well as Oakland Mills Middle and High. Our middle school and high school are often deferred for much needed renovation because capacity takes precedence as our county continues to grow. Unfortunately, due to circumstances I won't have time to get into during a budget hearing, these schools remain at or under capacity while other nearby schools are bursting at the seams. Responsible planning would be to fill the buildings we have, invest in their future viability, and then build new schools to address the additional capacity needed. Unfortunately, the opposite is largely happening right now. We do not want to see Oakland Mills Middle and High devolve into such a state of disrepair and obsolescence that the logical and more cost-effective choice is to tear them down and rebuild them as now must happen with Talbott Springs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration of our feedback.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION  
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Jonathan Edelson, have been duly authorized by  
(name of individual)

Oakland Mills Community Association, Inc. to deliver testimony to the  
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding F/20 Capital Budget Hearing to express the organization's  
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.  
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Jonathan Edelson

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: April 23, 2019

Organization: Oakland Mills Community Association, Inc.

Organization Address: 5851 Robert Oliver Place

Columbia, MD 21045

Number of Members: 10,000 residents

Name of Chair/President: Jonathan Edelson

***This form can be submitted electronically via email to [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.***



My name is Amy Kilrane. I live in Howard County. I was diagnosed with dyslexia when I was younger. My two young children already show signs of dyslexia. When a child struggles to read, it effects their confidence and self-worth.

The magnitude of this problem is staggering. 1 in 5 children have a reading disability. By 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 40% of all Howard County students are not reading on grade level. Even more upsetting, 85% of special education students and 70% of students receiving Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) are not reading on grade level. Howard County is continuously praised as being one of the best local education agencies in the country, yet over 50% of third graders and approximately 40% of tenth graders are not proficient in reading.

According to the Maryland Longitudinal Data System, in 2018, 58% percent of Maryland high school graduates are not college & career ready and must pay for non-credit, remedial English classes before admission to community college. How can Howard County be the best when these are the statistics?

According to the American Educational Research Association, "A student who can't read on grade level by 3rd grade is four times less likely to graduate by age 19 than a child who does read proficiently by that time." Add poverty to the mix, and a student is 13 times less likely to graduate on time than proficient, wealthier peers.

Two-third of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of 4th grade will end up in the criminal justice system or on welfare. Over 70% of America's inmates cannot read above a 4th grade level. 48% of prisoners

are dyslexic. These statistics are alarming. The status quo of reading in Maryland is not acceptable.

The “wait to fail” model doesn’t work for teachers, students, parents or school systems. Teachers are doing their best to provide help to students – we must give them the tools they need to inform instruction and prevent academic gaps.

Good news is on the horizon! The Ready to Read Act, which passed unanimously in both Houses of the Maryland legislative, is proactive legislation that identifies who is struggling through universal screening and enables educators to address these issues before these children fall further and further behind. Early remediation takes significantly less time in the early elementary grades than later in their school career.

Using teaching methodologies that are proven to prevent reading failure helps ALL students and SAVES MONEY! An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. It is predicted that this Act will save millions of dollars over the long term. We need to ensure that the Howard County Public School budget contains sufficient funding so that the requirements of the Ready to Read Act can be fully realized.

**My name is Sharon Shaw.**

I am a member of the Strategy Team for *People Acting Together in Howard County*, and speaking for PATH tonight.

**We ask you to consider the highest level of funding possible for our school system, in order to address long-time and persistent gaps in achievement, resources, and support systems.** We stand for *all* of our students and want every child to succeed. PATH addresses social justice issues for those who are most marginalized and disenfranchised. Racial and economic equity in resources is a central value around which we organize communities.

**PATH member institutions are asking the County Council to implement the most visionary funding the County can designate for our public schools.**

We support Superintendent Martirano's decision to clearly lay out broad areas of need in his proposed budget for 2020. After meeting the obligations of negotiated contracts, and maintaining effort where adequate, these needs exist in many key areas. His proposed budget showed the gaps. Seeing this full picture allow us to move together towards remedies over time.

In this political arena of the County budget, a range of groups apply pressure, and there is a need to cover many bases. We understand that fully. The County Executive's budget balances a lot of competing interests, yet the Council may still raise the funding level for HCPSS. We view the world as it is and want to move toward the world as it should be. In that world of disparities, equitable is not necessarily equal. **Therefore, we call for bold funding decisions that benefit the students who most need resources.**

**PATH priorities are in three areas where we know HCPSS wants to provide maximum changes to meet the gaps:**

**Our first issue is the equitable allotment and management of Title I school resources, particular in technology upgrades.**

Not all schools are equal in Howard County, this we know. Those with the most diverse populations, and centralized in Columbia, operate with fewer resources. Many students do not have personal computers in their homes, and over 500 lack permanent housing at all. They need to receive updated equipment and technology that allow teachers to engage the minds of students with innovative programs and software applications. Every student deserves to experience and receive the exemplary standard of education for which Howard County is most known.

**The second area is the expansion of critical wellness and mental health services.**

Our congregations want to help end the stigma on mental health care and break the silence that can isolate and imperil students and caregivers. Adverse childhood experiences are the single greatest unaddressed public health threat facing our nation today. Students exposed to a high number of traumatic events come to school frightened, angry, and depressed. Sadly, almost two-thirds of these young people do not receive the mental health services they desperately need.

I am a school counselor at Wilde Lake High School, so I hear daily about this situation. A number of students in my caseload are struggling with anxiety, depression, and other forms of mental illness that hinder their ability to be successful in and out of the classroom. Not all of my students have the means or transportation to access much needed mental health services.

School-based mental health providers can be the difference between a student's being home or in a mental health facility. To address fully the mental health needs of our student population, additional counselors and school psychologists are needed in our schools, with more referral coordination as needed. We need many more health providers in place.

**Our third issue is providing ongoing training in diversity, equity and inclusion policies.** As congregations united across many differences, we are working against racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, anti-immigrant bias, and economic class tensions in Howard County. We want there to be adequate money available in HCPSS to expand important work in restorative justice, provide family and student support via BSA and Hispanic liaisons, and to develop the anti-bias curriculum we have sought for several years. We support the work of Dr. Keven Gilbert's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion office in HCPSS, and believe this of vital importance to the future of our schools.

**PATH leaders ask that the issue of equity stays central in public school funding. We want our County Council leaders to offer bold funding decisions that are both aspirational and just, as we work together for all student.**

Thank you.

[www.pathiaf.com](http://www.pathiaf.com)

Contact: Rev. Louise Green, [lgpathiaf@gmail.com](mailto:lgpathiaf@gmail.com)



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION  
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Sharon Shaw, have been duly authorized by  
(name of individual)

PATH - People Acting Together in Howard to deliver testimony to the  
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding HCPSS Budget to express the organization's  
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.  
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Sharon Shaw

Signature: Sharon Shaw

Date: 4/24/2019

Organization: PATH - People Acting Together in Howard

Organization Address: 5884 Robert Oliver Place

Columbia, MD 21045

Number of Members: 11 organizations

Name of Chair/President: Rev. Paige Getty, Rev. Tyrone Jones

*This form can be submitted electronically via email to [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.*

My name is Erin Parker. I moved to Howard County to provide my children with the best public education available. But when my son was diagnosed with dyslexia and dysgraphia, the County refused to provide him with special education. I was forced to place my son at Jemicy, a private school specializing in helping struggling readers. It costs \$35,000 a year.

Jemicy uses structured literacy to teach kids how to read. It works. My son's confidence is being restored. His reading, spelling, and writing are progressing, and he loves school. Children in public school deserve the same opportunities that he has had at Jemicy.

If the Ready to Read Act is implemented along with best practices in screening and instruction, everyone benefits:

- Struggling readers will receive appropriate instruction early, which will prevent reading struggles and the negative consequences of low literacy, such as dropping out, limited employment opportunities, anxiety and depression.
- Impoverished students, minority students, students with learning disabilities and English language learners will benefit.
- Teachers will have tools to identify struggling readers and pinpoint the areas of greatest need so students can be provided with targeted, supplemental instruction as they are learning to read early—when interventions are most effective.
- If reading difficulties are addressed in general education, the cost of special education will decrease. The school system will save money by intervening early and students won't reach Middle and High School before being identified and getting help.
- Families will not need to suffer the emotional and financial strain of ensuring their children are prepared to graduate from high school being able to read.

The plan is simple—follow the Ready to Read Act and the Dyslexia Task Force Report:

**Step 1** – Implement Universal Screening so that struggling readers are identified early when we can make the most impact

**Step 2** – Train teachers on the best methods to teach reading

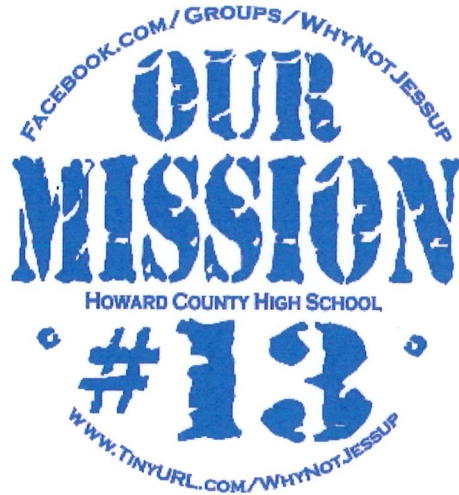
**Step 3** – Implement a structured literacy program for children through the general education curriculum as well as more intensive services for those in need of special education

**Step 4** – Assess students' progress using appropriate measurement tools

**Step 5** – Provide access to appropriate assistive technologies, like speech to text software, audiobooks, etc.

Other counties are way ahead of Howard County on these issues. Howard County needs to not only catch up to other counties, but lead the charge in being the best school system, not just for high performing students but for all of our children.

We ask that the County Council support the school system's increased special education budget and teacher professional development so that we can implement the Ready to Read Act to the best of our collective abilities and change the paradigm so that our children do not graduate high school without the fundamental skill of reading.



Thank You, County Council Members!

We are asking for your support of our High School #13, project E1035, included in the Capital Budget for 2020, for \$9.0 million in county funding. This new high school offers so much to all of Howard County. It will help relieve the overcrowded schools in our part of the county and help bring our community together. We see this as a step towards the revitalization of Route 1 and Jessup itself. We appreciate your efforts to help open the school in 2023.

Respectfully,

Becky McKirahan

Why Not Jessup

[www.Tinyurl.com/WhyNotJessup](http://www.Tinyurl.com/WhyNotJessup)







**Testimony**  
**Jewish Federation of Howard County**  
**Jewish Community Relations Council of Howard County**

**Howard County Council**  
**Proposed FY 2020 Operating Budget**  
**Howard County Public School System**

**April 24, 2019**

My name is Annie McCormick and I am representing the Jewish Federation of Howard County (JFHC) and the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). We are here to testify in support of the Howard County Board of Education's Operating Budget for FY 2020, which includes an increase of approximately \$400,000 to move forward with the Howard County Public School System's initiatives that focus on improving **diversity, equity, and inclusion** for our students.

JCRC presented testimony supporting this initiative at the budget hearing before the Howard County Board of Education on the Superintendent's proposed budget on January 15<sup>th</sup>. At that hearing and also at the budget hearing on January 31<sup>st</sup> we agreed with the testimony from other groups and individuals who identified the need for additional funding for DEI positions and activities.

We support school system initiatives that will reduce and eventually eliminate the achievement gaps in Howard County Public Schools so that all students are successful regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, and/or diversity of culture. All students, regardless of their personal characteristics should feel safe, protected, and valued while students in a Howard County Public School. Our school system, with your help and approval of the funds being requested can help achieve this goal.

Testimony presented in January addressed racial problems of African-American students and parents, including racial symbols and language; concerns about being bullied because a student is seen as different; prejudice shown to Muslim and Islamic students; Anti-Semitic symbols and language; Hispanic and Latino students and their parents having difficulty navigating within the school system; students and their parents from a significant number of foreign countries trying to understand HCPSS; and students and their parents from Asian countries with several different languages and/or cultures that have not been fully accommodated by the school system.

During the past two years members of the JCRC participated in a community wide activity entitled “Courageous Conversations.” This program has brought together several hundred citizens from dozens of Howard County faith-based organizations and institutions to discuss racial, religious, ethnic, and cultural differences and similarities. This has opened the door to more personal, individual, and group dialogues. This can be utilized by the Howard County Public School System to advance movement pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Howard County citizens from all walks of life and religious and non-religious backgrounds came together at Beth Shalom Congregation to show support following the murders at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, last October. Again, just last month, the Howard County community came to the Dar Al-Taqwa Mosque to show support following the anti-Muslim massacre at the Mosques in New Zealand.

These attacks represent a need for more education and dialogue among and between students and citizens in Howard County, our country, and around the world. With your support HCPSS can continue along this path to improved relations and understanding. JCRC has three main goals, which are presented below.

We are committed and prepared to work closely with Dr. Michael Martirano, Dr. Kevin Gilbert, and their staff to achieve these goals:

1. Educate and hold accountable teachers and administrators to ensure consistent and system-wide observance of current equity absence policies so that students are not intimidated or penalized for observing their holy day(s) as permitted by HCPSS policy;
2. Review and revise HCPSS policies to better protect victims of discriminatory bullying and hate and to educate the perpetrators; and
3. Initiate a mandatory K-12 anti-bias curriculum, including a mandatory Holocaust education component, as part of a larger effort to make the HCPSS curriculum more inclusive, equitable, and respectful and reflective of the diversity within Howard County.

JCRC encourages Dr. Martirano and Dr. Gilbert to assign staff and add resources to address the problems identified. The opportunity is before them, to work together with the representatives from our diverse community. The Howard County Public School System can be an effective leader in this area.

Your support of the budget for the HCPSS for FY 2020 is encouraged and appreciated. We would be glad to answer any questions at this time or meet with you or others for a more in- depth discussion of this important subject.

Respectively submitted by:

Annie McCormick (847-274-9295), Jewish Community Relations Council of  
Howard County

Yale Stenzler (410-236-6559), Jewish Community Relations Council of Howard County  
Betsy Singer Marcus (410-730-7740), Chair, Jewish Community Relations Council of  
Howard County



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION  
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Annie McCormick, have been duly authorized by  
*(name of individual)*

Jewish Community Relations Council, JFHC

*(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)* to deliver testimony to the

HCPSS FY 2020 Operating Budget

County Council regarding \_\_\_\_\_ to express the organization's  
*(bill or resolution number)*

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.

*(Please circle one.)*

Printed Name: Annie McCormick

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: April 24, 2019

Organization: Jewish Federation of Howard County

Organization Address: 10630 Little Patuxent Pkwy., Suite 400, Columbia, Md

Number of Members: 800

Betsy Singer Marcus, Chair, Jewish Community Relations Council

Name of Chair/President: Beth Millsstein, President, Jewish Federation of Howard County

*This form can be submitted electronically via email to [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.*



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION  
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

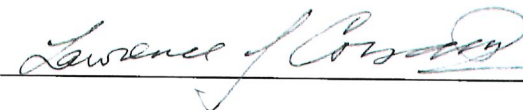
I, Larry Corsa, have been duly authorized by  
*(name of individual)*

Heritage Green Townhouse Association, Inc. to deliver testimony to the  
*(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)*

County Council regarding Capital Budget items F5976 and P4928 to express the organization's  
*(bill or resolution number)*

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.  
*(Please circle one.)*

Printed Name: Larry Corsa

Signature: 

Date: 4/24/2019

Organization: Heritage Green Townhouse Association, Inc.

Organization Address: 5305 Village Center Drive, PMB184, Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: 80 owners plus families

Name of Chair/President: Lawrence J Corsa III

*This form can be submitted electronically via email to [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.*

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET HEARING**  
**APRIL 24, 2019**

Good Evening,

My name is Lisa Soto and I am the 2018-2019 Chair of the HCPSS Community Advisory Council. Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening on behalf of our 58,328 students.

My testimony this evening focuses on the continued increase of students to our wonderful Howard County Public Schools. I have attached to my testimony the 2017 Official HCPSS Enrollment Report as of September 29, 2017, the 2018 Official HCPSS Enrollment Report as of September 30, 2018, the Monthly Enrollment Summary as of December 31, 2018 and the Monthly Enrollment Summary as of March 29, 2019.

We have experienced amazing growth of 1,533 Students during this short eighteen (18) month period. We have had growth of 421 students just since September 30<sup>th</sup> of 2018.

The HCPSS Community Advisory Council respectfully requests that the Council consider an increase in funding to the County Executive's suggested HCPSS Operating Budget for FY 2020. As you may recall, Howard County is one of the fastest growing school systems in the State of Maryland. County Maintenance of Effort and state formula funding calculations do not provide funding for student enrollment growth in the year of the growth, which results in underfunding for growing school systems like Howard County. Given the documented growth of students during the most recent eighteen month period and the expected growth of 850 new students that are projected in FY 2020, HCPSS will again be forced to provide for new students without per pupil funding provided for these students.

Please review the supporting documentation and look for the continued updates that are provided on a monthly basis on the HCPSS website. Providing for the explosive growth of our schools is essential as we consider an appropriate budget amount for this, our most important economic engine for Howard County.

Thank you.

Lisa Soto

HCPSS Chair 2018-2019

OFFICIAL ENROLLMENT REPORT - 2017 (SEPTEMBER 29, 2017)

School	PK%	KEN	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Grand Total
Atholton Elementary School	30	75	79	80	70	70	83								487
Bellows Spring Elementary School	77	142	116	129	108	132	118								822
Bolman Bridge Elementary School	94	79	114	105	108	112	110								722
Bryan Woods Elementary School	24	68	73	63	67	59	67								421
Bushy Park Elementary School	31	86	81	110	88	114	122								632
Centennial Lane Elementary School		113	112	132	138	127	143								765
Clarksville Elementary School		66	51	62	77	81	95								432
Clemens Crossing Elementary School		102	101	84	86	90	87								550
Cradle Creek Elementary School	51	64	83	72	83	88	78								519
Dayton Oaks Elementary School	68	85	98	93	112	112	115								683
Deep Run Elementary School	79	126	128	112	135	135	122								837
Ducketts Lane Elementary School		163	133	151	160	160	128								891
Elkridge Elementary School	72	140	162	127	144	145	129								919
Forest Ridge Elementary School		97	108	114	117	122	135								693
Fulton Elementary School		152	155	137	141	138	155								876
Gorman Crossing Elementary School	73	145	124	104	138	145	119								848
Guilford Elementary School	40	63	67	67	75	67	71								450
Hammond Elementary School		90	116	102	127	127	119								651
Hollifield Station Elementary School	48	134	145	143	123	141	122								856
Jichester Elementary School	41	83	91	105	106	106	122								654
Jeffers Hill Elementary School		51	85	62	78	74	78								428
Laurel Woods Elementary School	38	95	94	94	96	110	97								611
Liston Elementary School		66	70	68	81	86	84								455
Longfellow Elementary School	33	72	56	65	73	71	71								441
Manor Woods Elementary School		88	138	124	142	156	146								794
Northfield Elementary School		108	118	119	128	134	141								748
Phelps Luck Elementary School	35	80	96	92	81	82	117								583
Pointers Run Elementary School	48	99	117	112	127	143	122								768
Rockburn Elementary School	92	95	112	110	109	110	107								735
Running Brook Elementary School	41	75	73	83	80	73	72								497
St. John's Lane Elementary School		104	106	121	131	122	119								703
Stevens Forest Elementary School	25	60	66	70	57	63	74								415
Swansfield Elementary School	32	98	92	103	97	107	105								634
Talbot Springs Elementary School		75	77	84	70	72	79								491
Thunder Hill Elementary School	34	81	79	86	100	97	101								544
Traddaphia Ridge Elementary School		67	71	97	102	109	107								553
Veterans Elementary School	72	127	156	148	144	152	131								930
Veterans Elementary School	55	95	78	115	82	112	98								635
Waterloo Elementary School		98	111	133	118	120	114								770
Waverly Elementary School	76														327
West Friendship Elementary School		33	52	60	52	68	62								327
Worthington Elementary School		72	68	80	84	102	109								515
Bonnie Branch Middle School															716
Burleigh Manor Middle School								247	234						235
Clarksville Middle School								252	276						807
Dunloegin Middle School								194	170						552
Elkridge Landing Middle School								221	218						191
Ellicott Mills Middle School								240	223						230
Folly Quarter Middle School								288	272						293
Glenwood Middle School								238	189						236
Hammond Middle School								144	159						192
Harper's Choice Middle School								172	184						188
Lake Elkiron Middle School								200	203						554
Lime Kiln Middle School								194	201						153
Mayfield Woods Middle School								241	229						264
Mount View Middle School								240	229						243
Murray Hill Middle School								269	279						271
								215	235						250

# OFFICIAL ENROLLMENT REPORT - 2017 (SEPTEMBER 29, 2017)

Oakland Mills Middle School								170	156	146					472
Patapsco Middle School								227	242	237					706
Patuxent Valley Middle School								203	212	203					618
Thomas Viaduct Middle School								237	213	237					687
Wilde Lake Middle School								213	180	217					610
Atholton High School											377	371	373	358	1479
Centennial High School											430	420	372	392	1614
Glenelg High School											286	323	285	279	1173
Hammond High School											394	316	286	305	1301
Howard High School											508	519	411	476	1914
Long Reach High School											477	429	364	366	1636
Marriotts Ridge High School											350	343	334	305	1332
Mt. Hebron High School											379	412	393	383	1567
Oakland Mills High School											328	326	240	267	1161
Reservoir High School											457	331	366	373	1527
River Hill High School											280	286	282	309	1157
Wilde Lake High School											372	310	296	298	1276
<b>Subtotals</b>	1309	3812	4039	4118	4231	4404	4374	4405	4304	4451	4638	4386	4002	4111	56584
K and Gr K-5	1309				24978				13160				17137		
Gr1-5					21166										
					26287										
Homewood Center								4	5	11	35	31	17	13	116
<b>Subtotal with Homewood</b>	1309	3812	4039	4118	4231	4404	4374	4409	4309	4462	4673	4417	4019	4124	
	1309				24978				13180				17233		
Cedar Lane School	5	5	4	5	2	5	13	5	6	6	7	4	8	24	99
<b>Grand Total</b>	1314	3817	4043	4123	4233	4409	4387	4414	4315	4468	4680	4421	4027	4148	56799
	1314				25012				13197				17276		
					26326										



OFFICIAL ENROLLMENT REPORT - 2018 (SEPTEMBER 30, 2018)

Pg. 1

School	PreK	KGN	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Grand Total
Atholton Elementary School	26	71	77	84	77	68	68	68	77	84	77	68	68	471	
Bellows Spring Elementary School	78	124	131	118	116	114	114	122	122	114	117	117	803	803	
Bollman Bridge Elementary School	80	107	92	118	112	114	117	117	117	114	117	117	740	740	
Bryant Woods Elementary School	39	68	79	74	69	66	63	63	63	63	63	63	458	458	
Bushy Park Elementary School	35	85	95	81	117	95	120	120	120	120	120	120	628	628	
Centennial Lane Elementary School		101	117	114	134	140	128	128	128	84	84	84	419	419	
Clarksville Elementary School		59	70	59	59	65	82	84	76	76	76	76	491	491	
Cradlerock Elementary School	47	73	71	84	67	79	88	88	88	88	88	88	509	509	
Dayton Oaks Elementary School	77	87	98	111	105	119	130	130	130	130	130	130	727	727	
Deep Run Elementary School	64	113	106	108	94	125	119	119	119	119	119	119	729	729	
Ducketts Lane Elementary School	43	94	86	89	91	97	106	106	106	106	106	106	606	606	
Elkridge Elementary School	36	124	151	153	144	144	149	149	149	149	149	149	901	901	
Forest Ridge Elementary School		107	107	114	108	122	121	121	121	121	121	121	679	679	
Fulton Elementary School		143	165	165	151	150	144	144	144	144	144	144	918	918	
Gorman Crossing Elementary School	67	125	152	129	111	150	143	143	143	143	143	143	877	877	
Guilford Elementary School	38	66	59	70	64	71	71	105	105	105	105	105	439	439	
Hammond Elementary School		99	94	110	96	119	105	105	105	105	105	105	623	623	
Hanover Hills Elementary School	43	93	111	101	123	109	114	114	114	114	114	114	694	694	
Hofffield Station Elementary School		135	148	153	160	132	151	151	151	151	151	151	879	879	
Ilchester Elementary School	41	107	91	93	108	104	104	104	104	104	104	104	648	648	
Jeffers Hill Elementary School		63	52	85	59	74	70	70	70	70	70	70	403	403	
Laurel Woods Elementary School	38	80	98	90	88	96	117	117	117	117	117	117	607	607	
Lisbon Elementary School		68	69	71	67	85	91	91	91	91	91	91	451	451	
Longfellow Elementary School	40	78	72	60	66	71	73	73	73	73	73	73	460	460	
Manor Woods Elementary School		107	66	115	108	117	137	137	137	137	137	137	650	650	
Northfield Elementary School		114	107	126	130	131	139	139	139	139	139	139	747	747	
Pheips Luck Elementary School	42	113	87	91	87	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	582	582	
Pointers Run Elementary School	55	135	129	142	137	158	168	168	168	168	168	168	924	924	
Rockburn Elementary School	52	104	85	107	95	91	95	95	95	95	95	95	629	629	
Running Brook Elementary School	48	75	73	64	83	82	75	75	75	75	75	75	500	500	
St. John's Lane Elementary School		123	114	116	119	129	125	125	125	125	125	125	726	726	
Stevens Forest Elementary School	31	71	62	65	61	60	65	65	65	65	65	65	415	415	
Swanfield Elementary School	27	103	91	86	93	107	94	94	94	94	94	94	601	601	
Talbot Springs Elementary School	33	71	86	77	83	78	76	76	76	76	76	76	504	504	
Thunder Hill Elementary School		76	85	83	86	96	100	100	100	100	100	100	526	526	
Tradelphia Ridge Elementary School		78	76	78	103	112	116	116	116	116	116	116	563	563	
Veterans Elementary School	69	126	136	149	151	147	154	154	154	154	154	154	932	932	
Waterloo Elementary School	55	59	105	87	108	81	125	125	125	125	125	125	620	620	
Waverly Elementary School	66	119	128	150	158	143	137	137	137	137	137	137	901	901	
West Friendship Elementary School		52	53	65	79	71	81	81	81	81	81	81	401	401	
Worthington Elementary School	60	66	76	74	78	81	100	100	100	100	100	100	535	535	
Elementary Schools Total	1330	3949	4038	4211	4219	4361	4542	4542	4542	4542	4542	4542	26650	26650	
Bonnie Branch Middle School						262	243	245	245	245	245	245	750	750	
Burleigh Manor Middle School						267	258	283	283	283	283	283	808	808	
Clarksville Middle School										211	237	211	666	666	

OFFICIAL ENROLLMENT REPORT - 2018 (SEPTEMBER 30, 2018)

Dunloggin Middle School									219	229	212							660
Elkridge Landing Middle School									253	256	235							744
Ellicott Mills Middle School									296	296	277							869
Folly Quarter Middle School									224	246	190							660
Glenwood Middle School									181	148	163							492
Hammond Middle School									210	180	182							572
Harper's Choice Middle School									160	177	166							503
Lake Elkhorn Middle School									197	183	198							578
Lime Kiln Middle School									225	211	196							632
Mayfield Woods Middle School									259	237	229							725
Mount View Middle School									255	294	288							837
Murray Hill Middle School									245	220	252							717
Oakland Mills Middle School									175	182	161							518
Patapsco Middle School									237	233	241							711
Patuxent Valley Middle School									247	217	222							686
Thomas Viaduct Middle School									220	231	202							653
Wilde Lake Middle School									205	220	203							628
Middle Schools Total									4555	4498	4356							13409
Atholton High School												373	375	366	390			1504
Centennial High School												385	417	401	387			1590
Glenelg High School												315	289	311	283			1198
Hammond High School												395	367	292	306			1360
Howard High School												484	491	494	421			1890
Long Reach High School												417	396	376	365			1554
Marriotts Ridge High School												367	354	356	342			1419
Mt. Hebron High School												442	383	407	395			1627
Oakland Mills High School												332	319	314	251			1216
Reservoir High School												436	432	330	383			1581
River Hill High School												475	316	304	287			1382
Wilde Lake High School												364	321	302	304			1291
High Schools Total												4785	4460	4253	4114			17612
Cedar Lane School	7	7	6	7	4	5	4	11	5	5	6	8	5	26				106
Homewood School								2	4	12	41	35	20	16				130
Special Schools Total	7	7	6	7	4	5	4	13	9	17	47	43	25	42				236
LEA Total	1337	3956	4044	4218	4223	4366	4546	4568	4507	4373	4832	4503	4278	4156				57907





### Student Membership Summary

Year: 2018-2019

Report: STU606

As Of Date: 12/31/2018

Elementary School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Pointers Run Elementary School	0	0	0	21	33	136	128	142	138	156	168	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	922
Rockburn Elementary School	0	0	0	27	25	105	87	106	96	91	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	629
Running Brook Elementary School	0	0	0	13	36	71	72	61	84	83	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	494
St. John's Lane Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	118	114	115	118	126	124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	715
Stevens Forest Elementary School	0	0	0	0	31	71	66	66	62	59	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	419
Swansfield Elementary School	0	0	0	0	26	101	89	88	89	110	95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	598
Talbot Springs Elementary School	0	0	0	0	32	70	85	80	81	72	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	497
Thunder Hill Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	71	77	83	83	94	99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	507
Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	79	76	78	103	111	115	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	562
Veterans Elementary School	0	0	0	19	57	135	141	149	150	147	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	953
Waterloo Elementary School	0	0	1	24	32	61	104	87	107	83	125	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	624
Waverly Elementary School	0	0	0	19	53	121	128	151	155	142	137	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	906
West Friendship Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	51	54	64	81	73	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	403
Worthington Elementary School	1	0	0	15	48	67	75	74	80	82	99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	541
<b>Elementary School</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>1010</b>	<b>3976</b>	<b>4077</b>	<b>4218</b>	<b>4227</b>	<b>4361</b>	<b>4555</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26825</b>
Middle School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Bonnie Branch Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	260	244	241	0	0	0	0	745
Burleigh Manor Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	271	258	283	0	0	0	0	812
Clarksville Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	219	240	212	0	0	0	0	671
Dunloggin Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	218	227	206	0	0	0	0	651
Elkridge Landing Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	258	253	237	0	0	0	0	748
Ellicott Mills Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	297	299	276	0	0	0	0	872
Folly Quarter Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	222	247	190	0	0	0	0	659
Glenwood Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	181	147	162	0	0	0	0	490
Hammond Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	209	181	183	0	0	0	0	573
Harper's Choice Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	158	179	167	0	0	0	0	504
Lake Elkhorn Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	201	187	200	0	0	0	0	588
Lime Kiln Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	224	211	198	0	0	0	0	633
Mayfield Woods Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	259	234	229	0	0	0	0	722



### Student Membership Summary

Year: 2018-2019

Report: STU606

As Of Date: 12/31/2018

Middle School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Mount View Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	256	299	286	0	0	0	0	841
Murray Hill Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	249	221	250	0	0	0	0	720
Oakland Mills Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	174	180	160	0	0	0	0	514
Patapsco Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	238	234	242	0	0	0	0	714
Patuxent Valley Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	252	217	222	0	0	0	0	691
Thomas Viaduct Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	218	231	203	0	0	0	0	652
Wilde Lake Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	205	215	203	0	0	0	0	623
<b>Middle School</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4569	4504	4350	0	0	0	0	13423
High School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Atholton High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	371	376	364	389	1500
Centennial High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	384	415	397	382	1578
Glenelg High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	314	289	311	283	1197
Hammond High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	405	364	286	303	1358
Homewood School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	13	45	33	23	18	139
Howard High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	485	490	494	421	1890
Long Reach High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	419	396	375	360	1550
Marriotts Ridge High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	366	354	354	342	1416
Mt. Hebron High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	446	381	405	392	1624
Oakland Mills High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	331	322	311	248	1212
Pending Enrollment School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Reservoir High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	435	431	332	381	1579
River Hill High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	473	314	304	287	1378
Wilde Lake High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	362	321	297	299	1279
<b>High School</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	13	4836	4486	4254	4105	17701
Special School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Cedar Lane School	0	0	0	3	4	7	6	6	4	5	5	12	6	6	4	9	5	28	110
Innovative Pathways - Evening	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Special School</b>	0	0	0	3	4	7	6	6	4	5	5	12	6	6	4	9	5	29	111
<b>Grand Total</b>	1	1	1	401	1014	3983	4083	4224	4231	4366	4560	4583	4515	4369	4840	4495	4259	4134	58060





## Student Membership Summary

Year: 2018-2019

Report: STU606

As Of Date: 3/29/2019

Elementary School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Pointers Run Elementary School	0	0	3	24	32	136	131	142	141	157	170	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	936
Rockburn Elementary School	0	0	0	26	25	105	89	107	97	91	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	633
Running Brook Elementary School	0	0	0	12	39	78	71	59	82	83	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	502
St. John's Lane Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	121	115	114	117	126	124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	717
Stevens Forest Elementary School	0	0	0	0	31	71	64	66	61	60	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	418
Swansfield Elementary School	0	0	0	0	29	103	91	89	88	113	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	611
Talbott Springs Elementary School	0	0	0	0	32	71	85	78	83	73	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	498
Thunder Hill Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	70	76	81	89	93	96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	505
Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	80	78	79	106	112	115	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	570
Veterans Elementary School	0	0	0	27	56	135	139	151	154	144	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	961
Waterloo Elementary School	0	0	1	26	33	62	104	86	110	82	125	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	629
Waverly Elementary School	0	0	0	24	53	123	129	158	158	147	139	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	931
West Friendship Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	51	53	63	79	72	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	399
Worthington Elementary School	0	0	1	17	50	67	75	73	80	81	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	544
<b>Elementary School</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>1029</b>	<b>4038</b>	<b>4089</b>	<b>4226</b>	<b>4265</b>	<b>4385</b>	<b>4576</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27083</b>
Middle School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Bonnie Branch Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	255	242	243	0	0	0	0	740
Burleigh Manor Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	273	259	283	0	0	0	0	815
Clarksville Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	220	243	213	0	0	0	0	676
Dunloggin Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	221	233	213	0	0	0	0	667
Elkridge Landing Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	258	253	240	0	0	0	0	751
Ellicott Mills Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	298	295	277	0	0	0	0	870
Folly Quarter Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	224	249	191	0	0	0	0	664
Glenwood Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	181	147	163	0	0	0	0	491
Hammond Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	211	181	186	0	0	0	0	578
Harper's Choice Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	160	181	169	0	0	0	0	510
Lake Elkhorn Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	187	197	0	0	0	0	584
Lime Kiln Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	224	213	201	0	0	0	0	638
Mayfield Woods Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	257	237	233	0	0	0	0	727



## Student Membership Summary

Year: 2018-2019

Report: STU606

As Of Date: 3/29/2019

Middle School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Mount View Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	258	302	288	0	0	0	0	848
Murray Hill Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	252	222	250	0	0	0	0	724
Oakland Mills Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	174	174	160	0	0	0	0	508
Patapsco Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	239	233	239	0	0	0	0	711
Patuxent Valley Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	247	219	223	0	0	0	0	689
Thomas Viaduct Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	221	230	201	0	0	0	0	652
Wilde Lake Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	206	217	202	0	0	0	0	625
<b>Middle School</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4579	4517	4372	0	0	0	0	13468
High School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Atholton High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	371	375	366	385	1497
Centennial High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	381	413	398	378	1570
Glenelg High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	313	289	313	283	1198
Hammond High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	363	288	303	1354
Homewood School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	15	49	27	21	16	137
Howard High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	487	488	496	419	1890
Long Reach High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	417	391	374	361	1543
Marriotts Ridge High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	368	353	356	343	1420
Mt. Hebron High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	454	384	402	391	1631
Oakland Mills High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	321	323	300	248	1192
Pending Enrollment School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Reservoir High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	437	431	334	378	1580
River Hill High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	474	314	303	288	1379
Wilde Lake High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	355	316	300	298	1269
<b>High School</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	15	4828	4468	4252	4091	17663
Special School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Cedar Lane School	0	0	0	4	3	7	6	7	4	5	6	12	6	6	4	9	6	28	113
ISRC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Special School</b>	0	0	0	4	3	7	6	7	4	6	6	12	6	6	4	9	6	28	114
<b>Grand Total</b>	0	0	8	471	1032	4045	4095	4233	4269	4391	4582	4593	4530	4393	4832	4477	4258	4119	58328





HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION  
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, LISA SOTO, have been duly authorized by  
(name of individual)

HCPSS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL to deliver testimony to the  
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding HCPSS OPERATING BUDGET to express the organization's  
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.  
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: LISA SOTO

Signature: Lisa Soto

Date: APRIL 24, 2019

Organization: HCPSS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Organization Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members: 50-75

Name of Chair/President: LISA SOTO, CAC CHAIR 2018-19

*This form can be submitted electronically via email to [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.*

**Testimony by Rev. Tim Siemens, Chairman**

Board of Directors, Chin Integration and Advocacy Network USA

**April 24, 2019 at 7pm**

Capital and Operating Budget Public Hearing Education - HCPSS

Howard County Council

Banneker Room, Howard Building

3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Madam Chairperson and Council members,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you. My name is Tim Siemens and I am the Chairperson of the Board of Director of the Chin Integration and Advocacy Network USA and a pastor at Grace Community Church for almost 35 years. Howard County is well known for its investment of resources to level the playing field for those who would otherwise be marginalized. On behalf of the Chin Community in Howard County thank you for creating an environment where they can integrate and be contributors as good citizens of the United States. I would like to share about Chin community and our organization.

**CIANUSA- Chin Integration and Advocacy Network USA**

**About Us**

Chin Integration and Advocacy Network USA (CIANUSA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, empowers the Chin community in Maryland, supporting Chins to successfully integrate into U.S. society, to know and exercise their rights, and to fully contribute to our community and to the wider community.

Chins are an ethnic nationality from Burma, and a major recent U.S. refugee group. In 2001, about 800 Chin asylees came to the U.S. through Guam, resettling largely in Maryland, Indiana, Florida, and Texas. Since 2004, the U.S. has resettled many more Chin refugees through Malaysia and India. Chins now number over 60,000 nationally, with about 3,000 in Maryland.

**Mission**

To support and empower the Chin community in Maryland, advocating for successful integration into U.S. society through educational programs and networking with other Chin communities across the United States.

**Programs**

**Support**

- Help access to mainstream benefits (food stamp, health, etc.)
- Provide employment services
- Conduct summer programs for Chin students
- Provide translation and referral services

**Education**

Our educational programs include the following:

- Legal rights
- Education system
- Financial literacy

- Affordable housing

#### **Advocacy**

- Advocate with the stakeholders including County, State, and national level about legal rights and opportunities. In addition, we will advocate for durable solutions for Chin refugees in Malaysia and India with stakeholders including in the U.S. and elsewhere.

#### **Leadership Development**

- Organize leadership trainings and conferences in partnership and networking with Chin and other community organizations across the country.

Madam Chairperson,

We are here tonight to advocate for an additional liaison position within Howard County Schools. We understand that there are many immigrant communities within Howard County who also would like liaison position. We believe that as refugees the Chin are the most vulnerable for several reasons

- Our 360+ Chin students are refugees or children of refugees; different from immigrant or migrants
- Most of our Chin students received free & reduced meal services (FARMS)
  - Most families are challenged by the economics of making minimum wage - Both parents working and doing a pass off between one working day shift while the other works night shift
- Many of our Chin students are English Learners (EL) taking ESOL classes
- Many of our Chin students live in multiple family situations
- Some of our Chin parents did not have opportunities to graduate from high school back home and would have a hard time helping their children with homework
  - Three years ago my wife, a young pastor and myself traveled the 20+ hours to Burma an additional 2 hour flight within the country and 6 hour drive into the mountains on poorly constructed roads to their home villages. There we saw that they are hard workers in the fields, persecuted and purposefully marginalized because of their faith. We saw the inadequate schools- unresourced, spoke to the students who did not have dreams about what they could become because opportunities were not available to them.
- Outreach to Chin parents work best when its a personal meeting or phone call; other communities respond to emails frequently.

Therefore, although, there is 1 Chin liaison, she can not serve all 360+ students and families by herself. She is assigned to 2 schools only. So we would like you to consider adding a second liaison.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Chin community.

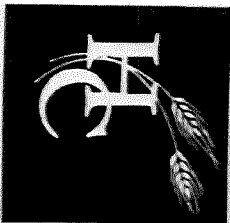
#### **Board of Directors**

Rev. Tim Siemens, Chair  
Rev. Joseph Nihre Bawihrin, Secretary  
Pastor Thomas BK Lian  
Cunglian Hup  
Zo Tum Hmung

#### **Contact Us**

Howard County Multi-Service Center  
9900 Washington Blvd Suite 1  
Laurel, MD 20723  
Tel. 443-936-8616  
zotumhmung18@gmail.com

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HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION  
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Rev. Tim Siemens, *(name of individual)*, have been duly authorized by

Chin Integration Advocacy Network USA

*(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)*

to deliver testimony to the

County Council regarding HCPSS - Chin Liaison position

*(bill or resolution number)*

to express the organization's

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.  
*(Please circle one.)*

Printed Name: Rev. Tim Siemens

Signature: *Tim Siemens*

Date: April 17, 2019

Organization: Chin Integration and Advocacy Network USA

Organization Address: 9900 Washington, Blvd, Suite 1, Elkridge, MD 20723

9900 Washington, Blvd, Suite 1, Elkridge, MD 20723

Number of Members: community organizations

Name of Chair/President: Rev. Tim Siemens (Chairman, Board of Directors)

*This form can be submitted electronically via email to no later than 5pm  
the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.*

Good Evening County Council Members,

My name is Colleen Morris and as the HCEA President, I represent over 6,000 HCPSS employees that are affected by both the capital and operating budgets.

We are extremely grateful that our County Executive combined the state and county funds necessary to fund our negotiated agreements. This will help attract and retain high quality educators, and it helps keep a promise made and mutually agreed to among educators and their Board of Education.

However, what we are concerned about is that each year we only seem to have barely enough funds to focus on one priority. For instance, last year there was not enough money to maintain class size and receive step increases. Thus, we focused on class size. As a result, educators did not receive their full step increment or a cost of living adjustment. Not only is our County the fastest growing in Maryland, our student's needs are more diverse and for some of them, more intense than ever. We worry that limited funds will not allow us to continue to deliver the same quality education that I grew up receiving, that we are known for, and that our community expects and deserves.

I sat, with other HCPSS staff, at a PATH meeting last month while members of People Acting Together in Howard pointed out many of our shortcomings. Students told stories about how the lack of counselors and school psychologists affected them. They talked about the difficulty teachers have differentiating for so many students and parents spoke about the lack of technology and other inequities between school resources.

We also deal with staff and students that are seriously hurt in our schools due to lack of support. The lack of appropriately trained and allocated staff to support the special needs many of our students bring to HCPSS is causing disruption to their education, the education of others and safety of some of our staff.

These truths are hard to hear but they are all real. It is not that we don't have the plans to address these issues because we saw many of those plans in our Superintendent's proposed budget. It is also not a lack of energy around supporting education from our elected officials. We know that our County Council, elected State Officials and County Executive prioritize education. The truth is that we don't have enough funds to address all our needs. Did you know that if our Maintenance of Effort formulas were adjusted for inflation, HCPSS would have 139M more in its operating budget today? One thing educators have learned is that the current formula that exists for funding our schools is grossly inadequate in meeting the needs of our student population.

As educators, we are not just people who see problems, but we act to change our situation. This year, hundreds from Howard County, and thousands from across the state marched in Annapolis to force the state of Maryland to increase its share of education funding. We stood up, our elected officials led, and the result was that Maryland is putting more than a billion dollars of new revenue into our schools. The state was responding to a massive statewide funding gap of schools—but the next part will be even harder, because the state will have to change its funding formulas, and local governments will be asked to increase local revenue for their schools. In other words, we've begun an important journey to modernizing our schools, and this year held several big steps forward. We cannot stop, and we will not stop moving forward.

As a community, we need to continue the real work of providing a quality public education by examining our priorities, available funds, and avenues to generate revenues to prepare our children for the future. If we want our county to continue to be a destination place to live, work, and play then we need to remain committed to addressing the very real needs that our school system faces each day.



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION  
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Colleen Morris, have been duly authorized by  
*(name of individual)*

Howard County Education Association <sup>Colleen Morris</sup> to deliver testimony to the  
*(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)*

County Council regarding HCPSS Operating budget to express the organization's  
*(bill or resolution number)*

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.  
*(Please circle one.)*

Printed Name: Colleen Morris

Signature: Colleen Morris

Date: 4-24-19

Organization: Howard County Education Association

Organization Address: 5082 Dorsey Hall Dr. Suite 102  
E.C., MD. 21042

Number of Members: 6,100

Name of Chair/President: Colleen Morris

*This form can be submitted electronically via email to [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.*





Good evening. My name is Heather Kelso, and my address is 8505 Black Star Circle in Columbia. My daughter has dyslexia and is struggling to learn to read in 6<sup>th</sup> grade in non-public placement. She was first identified at 2 years old with speech and language difficulty. Dyslexia is a language based learning disorder and early speech and language difficulties is just one sign. Had the County a screening for potential for reading failure, my daughter's dyslexia could have been identified as early as pre-kindergarten and gotten the appropriate help she needed.

Universal screening is Step 1 in preventing reading failure. Screening tools are quick, targeted measures that help identify the specific areas of reading skills deficits. Appropriate screeners target the building blocks of reading—phonological awareness, letter naming, letter-sound association, oral language, decoding non-words, rapid automatic naming, and oral reading fluency.

Armed with the results from screening, teachers can start targeting the gaps in reading skills each child has. The vast majority of the issues identified through screening should be able to be addressed through general education in a three-tiered response to intervention system. When provided as early intervention, many students will not require special education services. Research shows that only 5-7% of students would require additional, intensive reading interventions in a special education setting when the core and supplemental reading instruction is aligned with reading science.

The National Reading Panel and the Maryland State Department of Education have endorsed structured literacy. Baltimore County is training 700 teachers in structured literacy. Commissioned by the Maryland legislature, the Dyslexia Task Force found that structured literacy should be implemented in the general education classroom with tiered intervention for more severe cases of dyslexia.

Now, the Ready to Read Act, which passed unanimously in both Houses of the Maryland Legislature, requires universal screening, appropriate interventions and supplemental instruction.



Implementing structured literacy for students in general education would reduce the need for pull outs and special education. It is cost effective to attack reading challenges early. In order to realize the significant potential cost savings of the Ready to Read Act, we need to invest in teacher training so that all teachers are skilled in teaching reading using structured literacy.

With the knowledge of who will likely struggle, teachers can target reading instruction and close reading gaps before they become insurmountable. The Ready to Read Act improves reading skills by preventing instead of reacting to reading problems. Ultimately, the Ready to Read Act is about transforming our school systems into centers of equity so all students can become college and career ready — regardless of zip code.

I am requesting your support in funding the HCPSS budget.

