

CR 60-2028

Dear County Council

I am writing once again to ask you to restore funding to the Howard County Public School System's budget. We cannot continue asking our schools to do more and more every year with less and less. If you ask just about any resident of Howard County what drew them here, you'll likely hear the schools as their answer. We need to make funding our school system a priority, not just to defend our reputation, but much more importantly because it is our duty to educate the children of Howard County.

Especially since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, the challenges our schools' face and the needs of our students continue to grow. This is not the time to ask our schools to tighten belts or cut positions. We need more people and more support.

It is disappointing and frustrating to see the percentage of the county budget going towards the schools decrease as our enrollment and needs increase. I know that we can do better.

Meg Ricks
district 1



May 13, 2022

Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Council Members:

The Howard County Public Schools Educational Foundation, doing business as Bright Minds Foundation, is grateful to be included in the county's FY 2023 budget for non-departmental PAYGO operating funds (pg. 335) to support critical education access resources for Howard County children and families.

Bright Minds was incorporated in 2006 as Howard County's public schools education foundation to improve community support for education and increase access to diverse funding for educational resources that would not be possible through the public funding of education alone. Managed by staff with education and equity experience and overseen by an independent board of community leaders, Bright Minds has raised more than \$2.25 million for programs, scholarships, and grants that address emergency and evolving needs of Howard County students, families, and educators. Bright Minds' mission closely aligns with county priorities and we are part of a larger provider network that serves children and families in Howard County.

The county's FY 2023 funding for Bright Minds will support us in improving Howard County residents' equitable access to education and resources, including:

- **Early childhood literacy.** There remain persistent challenges with Howard County children who (regardless of socioeconomic status) are not receiving appropriate literacy exposure prior to kindergarten. Bright Minds' *Read With Me* early literacy program aligns with county goals for early childhood support, improves school readiness and education outcomes, reduces spending on intervention/remediation, and builds foundational skills for future employment and economic stability. More than 1400 children (ages 0-5 years) have participated in the program and Bright Minds is currently working in partnership with 12 community organizations (including the Office of Children and Family; Head Start; Judy Center; Luminus; HCPSS Early Intervention, Infants & Toddlers; the Library mobile unit; and others) to enroll an additional 800+ high need children in our county.
- **College access.** Bright Minds works to close the opportunity gap for underrepresented students in Howard County by ensuring they can participate in JumpStart, the dual-enrollment partnership between HCPSS and Howard Community College that allows high school students to gain college credits, explore career options, and even earn associate degrees before graduating. The cost of textbooks and course fees is often prohibitive for the estimated 25% of county families that qualify for Free and Reduced Meals. Bright Minds provides JumpStart books and course fees scholarships for these students so they can fully take advantage of the program. Since 2018, 285 students have received more than \$60,000 in scholarships and FARMS student participation in JumpStart has grown more than 1000% (non-FARMS student participation is up 52%). We expect this demand to continue to increase each year.



- **Broadband internet access.** As Howard County continues to respond to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, the importance of reliable and affordable broadband internet - for students and their families - is more critical than ever before. Attending school, applying for jobs, finding healthcare, accessing childcare, and communicating with family in times of need are all tasks that have moved online. Bright Minds has worked since its founding to bridge the digital divide for students and families, and we are currently providing internet service support for 100 families in our county through Comcast's Internet Essentials program. The service supports multiple students and family members in one household, and Bright Minds will continue to work with HCPSS to identify families in need. Over the last 3 years, Bright Minds has raised over \$400,000 for the Access to Learning Fund that has provided more than 50,000 education-engagement resources and tools to students across the county.
- **Language interpretation.** Howard County schools currently enroll students representing 164 languages and 145 countries. The HCPSS Office of International Student and Family Services (OISFS) provides services to connect all of these families in the community with HCPSS as engaged and supported partners in their children's education, and they ensure equitable access to information and resources provided by the school system. The OISFS provides simultaneous interpretation equipment to support approximately 150 school-based events each year and this equipment is in high demand across the county. However, over time, components of this technology have worn out and funding for replacement equipment has not been available in the HCPSS operating budget. The purchase of these interpretation sets will allow schools to engage thousands of underserved families over a 3-5 year period.

This funding directly contributes to achieving Bright Minds' mission to ensure each child in Howard County has access to the education, resources, and opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. We sincerely hope County Council members will support this budget. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions for us.

In partnership,

Suzi Padgett

Suzi Padgett
Board Chair

Jennifer Van Kirk

Jennifer Van Kirk
Executive Director



May 13, 2022

Dear Howard County Council,

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought serious disruption to the lives of our students and their families. Recent data shows that indicators of anxiety and other mental health challenges are on the rise in our community. At the same time, mental wellness remains critical to student success, and school can be the best place for kids to receive mental health supports.

As you know, all schools in Howard County have a standard set of mental health services available to students but only about 60 percent of schools have an enhanced set of supports that includes 1:1 counseling services – offered to students, with parent permission, by licensed professionals during the school day. County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball has promised nearly \$1 million in funding for mental health, along with nearly \$1 million in philanthropic support from the Horizon Foundation and the Kahlert Foundation. These investments will help bring these enhanced mental health supports to all Howard County public schools over the next two years. We urge the County Council to protect funding for these important services in the final FY 2023 budget.

This program eliminates many barriers to students getting the help they need. Parents in these schools do not need to take off work to get their child to treatment, and students do not have to miss significant instructional time waiting for and traveling to and from appointments. Nationally, more than 70 percent of students receiving mental health services access them in the school setting. Howard County must not fall behind, especially in this time of great stress and anxiety for our students.

Our coalition also urges you to support the overall level of mental health services provided to students. The Superintendent's budget includes funding for a number of personnel that would provide these services. For example, it funds a position to provide supports for LGBTQIA students, as data shows these students can be at high risk for mental health and substance use issues. All students in Howard County should be able to access the mental health services they need – without any kind of stigma to prevent them from receiving the support they deserve.

We want every child in Howard County to have all the tools they need to thrive inside and outside of the classroom. After two years of this pandemic, our students need these mental health supports more than ever. We strongly urge you to fully fund these enhanced school-based mental health services, as well as provide additional mental health resources, to ensure all students can be healthy and successful.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

African American Community Roundtable of Howard County

Alston for Athletes

B.Fly Collective

Black Student Achievement Program Swansfield Elementary

Girls on the Run of Central Maryland, Inc.

Horizon Foundation

Howard County School Psychologists Association (HCSPA)

The Kahlert Foundation

MRHS PTSA

NAMI Howard County

Sahrudaya Foundation

Youth Crisis Line, Islamic Leadership Institute of America

Sayers, Margery

From: Reka Montfort <rekamontfort@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 7:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding for the FY23 Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Members,

My name is Reka Montfort and I am a Howard County PTA member, having served as the PTA President for Lime Kiln Middle School for the last 3 years and as Vice President the year prior to that. I have made a strong commitment to the students at Lime Kiln over the last 4 years because I value the Howard County educational system and this has been especially important over the last few years as we have worked through the global pandemic.

I am in support of fully funding the proposed fiscal year 2023 operating and capital budgets provided by the Howard County Public School System Board of Education. Our schools need every penny to be able to deliver the high quality education and provide the support that our students deserve. There is nothing that we can invest our money in that is more worthwhile than our children. I strongly encourage you to restore the difference from the proposed executive budget. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Reka Montfort
Lime Kiln Middle School PTA President

Sayers, Margery

From: Tonya Tiffany <tntfitness@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 6:48 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fully funding HCPSS

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

Yours is a very hard job of juggling priorities as you decide whether or not to add funds back into the budget for HCPSS. There are many programs vying for a limited amount of money, but I would like to see our county be able to meet all of the requirements that are found within the Blueprint and the only way to do that, is with funds restored back into the budget.

Our children need you to fully fund the HCPSS Budget.

Sincerely,
Tonya Tiffany
District 4, Unaffiliated voter

Sayers, Margery

From: Amy Morrison Baker <a.morrisonbaker@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 6:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding for Fiscal Year 2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Councilmembers:

My name is Amy Morison Baker, a Howard County PTA member from Long Reach High School and Cedar Lane School for more than 10 years. I am in support of fully funding the proposed fiscal year 2023 operating and capital budgets provided by the Howard County Public School System Board of Education. Please make every effort to restore the difference from the proposed executive budget.

Thank you,
Amy Morrison Baker
443-504-2658

Sayers, Margery

From: Terri Marcus <terri.marcus@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 1:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding Education

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Howard County Council members:

I am a 9 year Howard County resident (Hanover/Elkridge). I have 2 children in the school system - a junior at Howard High and a 7th grader at Elkridge Landing Middle School. I have been an active PTA member in my children's schools since we moved here in January, 2013. I have provided hundreds, if not thousands, of volunteer hours over the years. I see the needs of the school system not being met on a broad level and on a very personal level. Every year, I fear that the needs of my 7th grade son with an IEP will not be met and what will happen if the school system can no longer provide the Free and Appropriate Education required by the Individuals Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

I value our school system and have done everything in my power to make it a better place for students and teachers. Please do the same and fully fund the proposed fiscal year 2023 operating and capital budgets provided by the Howard County Public School System Board of Education. Please make every effort to restore the difference from the proposed executive budget.

Respectfully,

Terri Marcus
6226 Mill River Ct
Hanover, MD 21076

Sayers, Margery

From: Linda Suarez <lindasuarezc@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 15, 2022 6:54 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To whom it May concern:

This message is to support to hiring 7 new Hispanics liaisons in Howard County schools and raising their salaries, and to approve the \$1.3 million proposed in the fiscal year 2023 budget to create the prenatal care program in Howard County.

I don't have kid to go to school but I think it's very important to have a good communication and avoid any problems in the future.

I am writing because I think the kids need it!

On the other hand, I believe that prenatal care is also important and thus prevent children from being born with diseases that over time would cost a lot to keep them in good health, both for the state and for the parents. I cannot have more children but many women can and it would be a blessing for them and their spouses.

Thank you very much!

Linda Suárez

Sayers, Margery

From: denisegiuliano123@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Denise Giuliano <denisegiuliano123@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 14, 2022 10:31 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Expand enhanced school-based mental health services to ALL Howard County public schools

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing in strong support of bringing enhanced mental health supports to ALL Howard County public schools.

As you know, all schools in Howard County have a standard set of mental health services available to students but only about 60 percent of schools have an enhanced set of supports that includes 1:1 counseling services – offered to students, with parent permission, by licensed professionals during the school day. County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball has promised \$1 million in funding for mental health, along with nearly \$1 million in philanthropic support from the Horizon Foundation and the Kahlert Foundation, to bolster this program. These investments will help bring these enhanced mental health supports to all Howard County public schools over the next two years. We urge you to protect and expand funding for this important program in this year's budget to ensure this gets done.

This program eliminates many barriers to students getting the help they need. Parents in these schools don't need to take off work to get their child to treatment, and students don't have to miss a bunch of instructional time waiting for and traveling to and from appointments. Nationally, more than 70 percent of students receiving mental health services access them in the school setting. Howard County must not fall behind, especially in this time of great stress and anxiety for our students.

We want every child in Howard County to have all the tools they need to thrive inside and outside of the classroom. After nearly two years of this pandemic, our students need these mental health supports more than ever. We strongly urge you to protect and expand funding for these enhanced school-based mental health services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Denise Giuliano
10924 Kathleen Ct Columbia, MD 21044-3764 denisegiuliano123@yahoo.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Eboni Crosland <eboni.crosland99@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 5:56 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Re: Request for a speed + children at play sign

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

Apologies, as for my last mail, I see that these signs are posted on the street where traffic enters from the main road. I drive constantly and have never taken notice of these signs, which, I believe, means that there need to be numerous right next to each other. My request for white lines still stands. Sorry for the confusion!

Regards,
Eboni Crosland
UI/UX Design Student | Springboard
p: 631.374.7137
e: Eboni.Crosland99@gmail.com
w: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/eboni-crosland-669184177/> (I'd love to connect!)

On Fri, May 13, 2022 at 5:52 PM Eboni Crosland <eboni.crosland99@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

I hope you're doing well today. My name is Eboni Crosland. I'm writing to request that additional speed signs be put up throughout Patuxent Valley Lane, a neighborhood of townhomes called "Townes at Pine Orchard" owned by Murn Management. It would also be fantastic if white lines were painted on the street adjacent to the two stop signs we have in our small neighborhood.

For the past few days, I have been sitting in front of my home to supervise my nephew as he plays with the neighborhood children. I have seen far too many people drive far too quickly in this residential area for comfort. Today, I watched two boys nearly get hit because a car came around a bend at an inappropriate speed. There is currently only one or two "slow + kids/dogs at play" sign located well into the neighborhood, much too far away from where main traffic enters our street from Pine Orchard Lane. I believe there need to be multiple signs that request a decreased speed + "kids/dogs at play." These should be visible as soon as someone turns onto Patuxent Valley Lane.

Additionally, people driving through this neighborhood seem to ignore the sides of the road, choosing to lazily turn in a manner that is easiest for them. This is an issue because the children here play in the street, and don't expect cars to come from the opposite direction they're supposed to. Also, I have nearly had a collision with a vehicle driving on my side of the road. This will inevitably cause a child or other vehicle to get hit by a fast-moving car choosing to take a shortcut, ignoring the rules of the road. If you were to have someone observe this street, you would quickly see what I'm referring to. I believe a white line next to these stop signs would deter people from driving lazily.

I would greatly appreciate these changes being made, for the good of the many children who live here. It is positively terrifying watching them play knowing that people consistently disregard their safety and wellbeing.

Thank you for taking the time to read this request.

Regards,
Ebony Crosland
UI/UX Design Student | Springboard
p: 631.374.7137
e: Ebony.Crosland99@gmail.com
w: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ebony-crosland-669184177/> (I'd love to connect!)

Sayers, Margery

From: Eboni Crosland <eboni.crosland99@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 5:53 PM
To: CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Request for a speed + children at play sign

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Hello,

I hope you're doing well today. My name is Eboni Crosland. I'm writing to request that additional speed signs be put up throughout Patuxent Valley Lane, a neighborhood of townhomes called "Townes at Pine Orchard" owned by Murn Management. It would also be fantastic if white lines were painted on the street adjacent to the two stop signs we have in our small neighborhood.

For the past few days, I have been sitting in front of my home to supervise my nephew as he plays with the neighborhood children. I have seen far too many people drive far too quickly in this residential area for comfort. Today, I watched two boys nearly get hit because a car came around a bend at an inappropriate speed. There is currently only one or two "slow + kids/dogs at play" sign located well into the neighborhood, much too far away from where main traffic enters our street from Pine Orchard Lane. I believe there need to be multiple signs that request a decreased speed + "kids/dogs at play." These should be visible as soon as someone turns onto Patuxent Valley Lane.

Additionally, people driving through this neighborhood seem to ignore the sides of the road, choosing to lazily turn in a manner that is easiest for them. This is an issue because the children here play in the street, and don't expect cars to come from the opposite direction they're supposed to. Also, I have nearly had a collision with a vehicle driving on my side of the road. This will inevitably cause a child or other vehicle to get hit by a fast-moving car choosing to take a shortcut, ignoring the rules of the road. If you were to have someone observe this street, you would quickly see what I'm referring to. I believe a white line next to these stop signs would deter people from driving lazily.

I would greatly appreciate these changes being made, for the good of the many children who live here. It is positively terrifying watching them play knowing that people consistently disregard their safety and wellbeing.

Thank you for taking the time to read this request.

Regards,
Eboni Crosland
UI/UX Design Student | Springboard
p: 631.374.7137

e: Eboni.Crosland99@gmail.com

w: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/eboni-crosland-669184177/> (I'd love to connect!)

Sayers, Margery

From: melissa.rosenberg@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Melissa Rosenberg <melissa.rosenberg@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 5:13 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Expand enhanced school-based mental health services to ALL Howard County public schools

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing in strong support of bringing enhanced mental health supports to ALL Howard County public schools.

As you know, all schools in Howard County have a standard set of mental health services available to students but only about 60 percent of schools have an enhanced set of supports that includes 1:1 counseling services – offered to students, with parent permission, by licensed professionals during the school day. County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball has promised \$1 million in funding for mental health, along with nearly \$1 million in philanthropic support from the Horizon Foundation and the Kahlert Foundation, to bolster this program. These investments will help bring these enhanced mental health supports to all Howard County public schools over the next two years. We urge you to protect and expand funding for this important program in this year's budget to ensure this gets done.

This program eliminates many barriers to students getting the help they need. Parents in these schools don't need to take off work to get their child to treatment, and students don't have to miss a bunch of instructional time waiting for and traveling to and from appointments. Nationally, more than 70 percent of students receiving mental health services access them in the school setting. Howard County must not fall behind, especially in this time of great stress and anxiety for our students.

We want every child in Howard County to have all the tools they need to thrive inside and outside of the classroom. After nearly two years of this pandemic, our students need these mental health supports more than ever. We strongly urge you to protect and expand funding for these enhanced school-based mental health services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Melissa Rosenberg
9770 Patuxent Woods Dr Ste 308 Columbia, MD 21046-3385 melissa.rosenberg@howard-autism.org

Sayers, Margery

From: tamekah_wilkins@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Tamekah Wilkins <tamekah_wilkins@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 2:46 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Expand enhanced school-based mental health services to ALL Howard County public schools

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing in strong support of bringing enhanced mental health supports to ALL Howard County public schools.

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We want every child in Howard County to have all the tools they need to thrive inside and outside of the classroom. After nearly two years of this pandemic, our students need these mental health supports more than ever. We strongly urge you to protect and expand funding for these enhanced school-based mental health services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Tamekah Wilkins
5610 Cedar Ln Columbia, MD 21044-2737
tamekah_wilkins@hcpss.org

Sayers, Margery

From: mike@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Michael Allen <mike@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 2:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Expand enhanced school-based mental health services to ALL Howard County public schools

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing in strong support of bringing enhanced mental health supports to ALL Howard County public schools.

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We want every child in Howard County to have all the tools they need to thrive inside and outside of the classroom. After nearly two years of this pandemic, our students need these mental health supports more than ever. We strongly urge you to protect and expand funding for these enhanced school-based mental health services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Michael Allen
2850 N Ridge Rd Ste 210 Ellicott City, MD 21043-3463 mike@therapeuticconnectionsllc.com

Sayers, Margery

From: aimee_kandelman@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Aimee Kandelman <aimee_kandelman@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 10:15 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Expand enhanced school-based mental health services to ALL Howard County public schools

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing in strong support of bringing enhanced mental health supports to ALL Howard County public schools.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Aimee Kandelman
6907 Meadowlake Rd New Market, MD 21774-6913 aimee_kandelman@hcpss.org

Sayers, Margery

From: lindseyknauss@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lindsey Knauss <lindseyknauss@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 9:20 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Expand enhanced school-based mental health services to ALL Howard County public schools

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing in strong support of bringing enhanced mental health supports to ALL Howard County public schools.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Knauss
5549 Moriarty Ct Sykesville, MD 21784-6877 lindseyknauss@yahoo.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Erinn Mansour <erinn@campmansour.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 8:40 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Caroline Bodziak; Erinn Mansour
Subject: Full Funding for the Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Councilmembers:

My name is Erinn Camp Mansour, Howard County PTA member and President of the PTSA at Mount Hebron High School. I have three children attending schools in the HCPSS and I value the Howard County educational system. I am in support of full funding for the proposed fiscal year 2023 operating and capital budgets provided by the Howard County Public School System Board of Education. Please make every effort to restore the difference from the proposed executive budget.

Sincerely,

Erinn Camp Mansour

2236 Kaitlins Court

Ellicott City, MD 21043

410-961-1332

[Sent from Smallbiz Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)