

Amendment 71 to Council Bill No. 28 -2023

BY: Liz Walsh

Legislative Day 11

Date: 10/02/2023

Amendment No. 71

(This Amendment amends HoCo by Design by including the May 31, 2023, student enrollment and capacity utilization as noted below:

Chapter 8: Public School Facilities - Amends Table 8-1: HCPSS Official Capacity Utilization (2022) and adds source of data.)

1 In the *HoCo By Design* General Plan, attached to this Act as Exhibit A, amend the following
2 page as indicated in this Amendment:

3 • Chapter 8: Public School Facilities: 9 and insert 9.1 after page 9.

4

5 Correct all page numbers, numbering, and formatting within this Act to accommodate this
6 amendment.

7

School Capacity Utilization

HCPSS measures school capacity utilization by weighing student populations against a specific school’s available space. The goal is to maintain a utilization rate between 90% and 100%. As per BOE policy, redistricting is considered if capacity utilizations are less than 90% or more than 110%. Capacity determinations for each school are revised periodically to reflect the realities of HCPSS’ changing use of buildings, priorities, and educational norms. The annual APFO school capacity chart adopted by the County Council is based on the capacity utilization calculations.

In 2019, the BOE took proactive steps to address HCPSS’ capacity issues by initiating a systemwide school boundary review, which revised the County’s school attendance areas. The goals of the attendance area revisions were to balance school capacity utilization, provide relief to schools most impacted by overcrowding, and address inequities in the distribution of students participating in the Free and Reduced Meal Program. More recently, in November 2022 the BOE adopted new school boundaries to accommodate the County’s newly built Guilford Park High School. As a result of the added capacity of the new high school and the recent boundary line adjustments, all high schools are projected to be under 110% capacity through 2030, with most of the 13 high schools projected to be around or below 100% capacity for the next 10 years.

For school year 2022-23, HCPSS elementary schools were utilized at close to 97% of capacity, with underutilized schools in the West balancing some of the high utilization rates at schools in the Central and Eastern areas. Middle schools were utilized at 98% and high school capacity utilization rates were over 105% countywide. This rate will be reduced with the opening of Guilford Park High School in 2023. The highest utilization for both middle and high school levels were in the Eastern and Northern schools. Table 8-1 shows these capacity utilization rates at each grade level. The capacities are from the June 2022 Feasibility Study. As discussed on page 17 of the Feasibility Study, the target capacity utilization range for schools is between 90 and 110%. Rates for each school are included in the study.

Table 8-1: HCPSS Official Capacity Utilization (2022)

Level	Capacity	9/30/2022 Enrollments	Capacity-Utilization
Elementary	25,457	24,575	96.5%
Middle	13,496	13,167	97.6%
High	17,206	18,362	106.7%
Total	56,159	56,104	99.9%

Source: Howard County Public School System, Office of School Planning

A number of projects have been approved for funding or are planned in the BOE’s latest proposed FY24 capital budget that will add seats to increase capacity in the areas of high capacity utilization. When it opens in the fall of 2023, Guilford Park High School will add 1,658 high school seats in an area of the County with three high schools utilized at over 110%. The Oakland Mills Middle and Dunloggin Middle School renovation and addition projects will add 428 middle school seats. A renovation and addition is planned for Oakland Mills High School to add 400 seats, with an expected completion date of 2029. Further, a 289-seat addition at Hammond High School will be opening in the fall of 2023. Additional renovation and addition projects are planned with 2030 through 2032 completion dates. All of these projects will help to alleviate school crowding in certain areas of the County, based on projected enrollment growth.

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Howard County is exceptional, first and foremost, due to the educational system.
 — “ —
 - HoCo By Design process participant

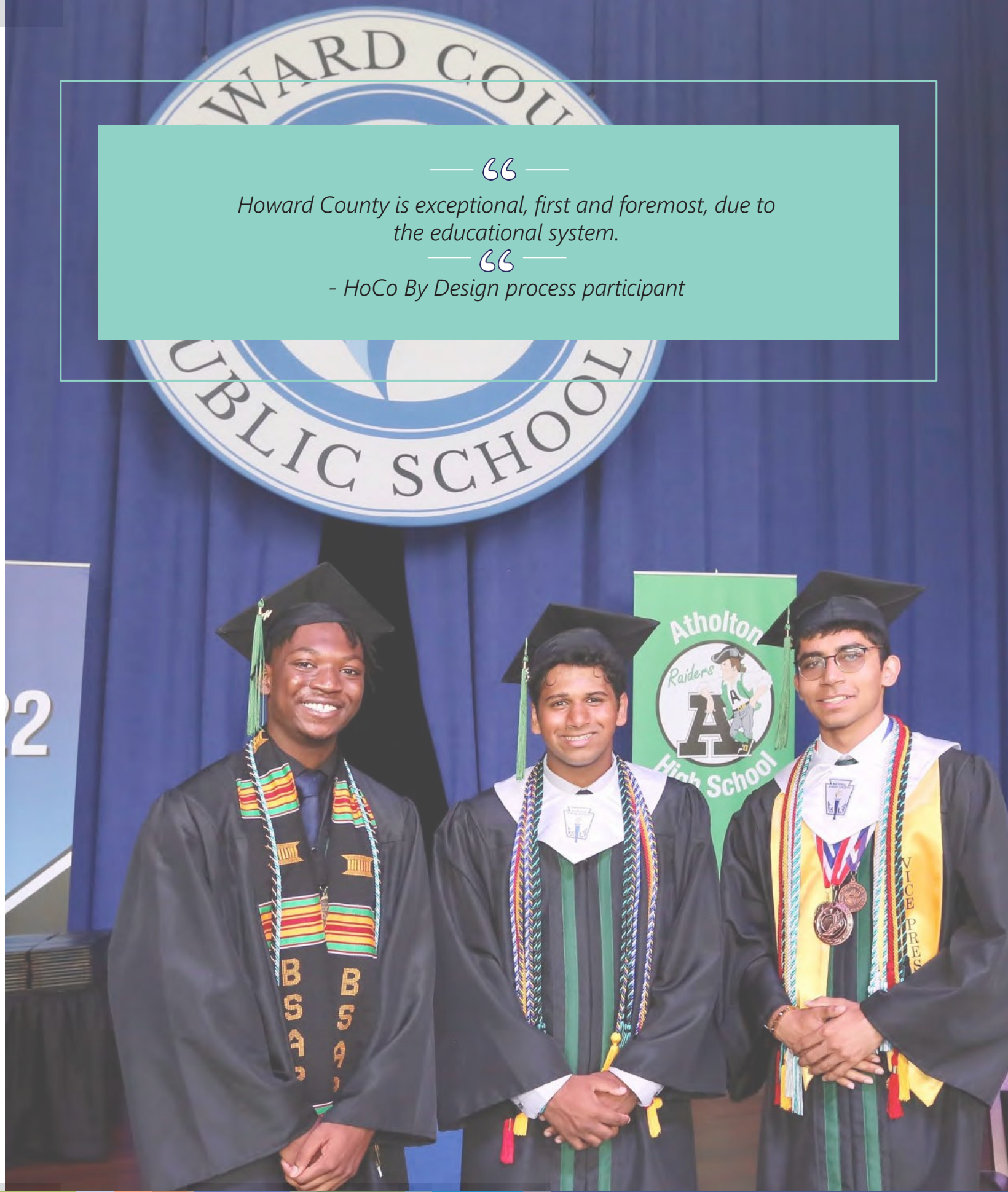


Table 8-1: HCPSS Official Capacity Utilization (2022)					
<u>Level</u>	<u>General Plan Capacity*</u>	<u>9/30/2022 Enrollments*</u>	<u>9/30/2022 Capacity Utilization*</u>	<u>5/31/2023 Enrollments**</u>	<u>Capacity Utilization</u>
<u>Elementary</u>	<u>25,457</u>	<u>24,575</u>	<u>96.5%</u>	<u>26,514</u>	<u>104.2%</u>
<u>Middle</u>	<u>13,496</u>	<u>13,167</u>	<u>97.6%</u>	<u>13,162</u>	<u>97.5%</u>
<u>High</u>	<u>17,206</u>	<u>18,362</u>	<u>106.7%</u>	<u>18,276</u>	<u>106.2%</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>56,159</u>	<u>56,104</u>	<u>99.9%</u>	<u>57,952</u>	<u>103.2%</u>

**Source: Howard County Public School System, Office of School Planning*

***HCPSS Monthly Enrollment Report for May 31, 2023 (<https://www.hcpss.org/schools/enrollment-reports/>)*