
From: Terri Donaldson <hiddentalent3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 9:18 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 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,

I am writing as a concerned resident in Howard County to urge you to restore full funding to the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) in the FY26 Operating Budget.

Over the past several years, HCPSS has been consistently underfunded. To maintain even a same- services budget this year, the school system needs at least \$80.6 million. Without this funding, our community will face larger class sizes, reductions in essential programs, and layoffs of valued staff -- all of which directly impact the quality of education for our students. It is troubling that when financial pressures arise, it is our schools that are first in line for service reductions. The school system should not be leading the way in cuts. Education is a core public service — not a luxury item to be scaled back.

Moreover, recent investment reports suggest the county will have at least \$10 million more in available funds than currently projected. Instead of shifting "extra" money into PAYGO projects, we should prioritize critical services like education. Our students, teachers, and schools should not be asked to sacrifice while funding is diverted elsewhere.

[Insert your personal connection here, e.g., "As a parent of two children in HCPSS, I see firsthand how thin resources already are. We cannot afford to cut any deeper."]

Howard County's reputation for excellence is built on its schools. I urge you to prioritize our students and schools by restoring the necessary funding to HCPSS.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Terri Donaldson
hiddentalent3@yahoo.com

From: Barbara Livieratos <babolimar@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 2, 2025 1:17 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS BUDGET

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

I am a taxpayer, a former teacher, and the grandmother of three kids (two in the HCPSS Schools at SJLES, PMS, and one in pre-k) and resident of Ellicott City, I am writing to ask you to do whatever you can to reverse the attack on public education that is happening in this country.

Over the past several years, HCPSS has been consistently underfunded. To maintain even a same-services budget this year, the school system needs at least \$80.6 million. Without this funding, our community will face larger class sizes, reductions in essential programs, and layoffs of valued staff -- all of which directly impact the quality of education for our students. It is troubling that when financial pressures arise, it is our schools that are first in line for service reductions. The school system should not be leading the way in cuts. Education is a core public service — not a luxury item to be scaled back.

Moreover, recent investment reports suggest the county will have at least \$10 million more in available funds than currently projected. Instead of shifting "extra" money into PAYGO projects, we should prioritize critical services like education. Our students, teachers, and schools should not be asked to sacrifice while funding is diverted elsewhere.

Howard County's reputation for excellence is built on its schools. I urge you to prioritize our students and schools by restoring the necessary funding to HCPSS.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this urgent matter.

Barbara Livieratos

From: Kelly Livieratos <kellykm@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 2, 2025 1:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Save Our Schools

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

Hello,

As a parent of three kids (two in the HCPSS schools at SJLES and PMS and one in pre-k) and resident of Ellicott City, I am writing to ask you to push back against the attack on public education that is happening in this country.

Over the past several years, HCPSS has been consistently underfunded. To maintain even a same-services budget this year, the school system needs at least \$80.6 million. Without this funding, our community will face larger class sizes, reductions in essential programs, and layoffs of valued staff -- all of which directly impact the quality of education for our students. It is troubling that when financial pressures arise, it is our schools that are first in line for service reductions. The school system should not be leading the way in cuts. Education is a core public service — not a luxury item to be scaled back.

Moreover, recent investment reports suggest the county will have at least \$10 million more in available funds than currently projected. Instead of shifting "extra" money into PAYGO projects, we should prioritize critical services like education. Our students, teachers, and schools should not be asked to sacrifice while funding is diverted elsewhere.

Howard County's reputation for excellence is built on its schools. I urge you to prioritize our students and schools by restoring the necessary funding to HCPSS.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this urgent matter.

Kelly

From: Christine Gonzales <christine.d.gonzales@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 3, 2025 10:30 AM
To: CouncilMail; Family Gonzales
Subject: Fully fund school budget

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

Council people,

Just a note to say that my husband and I are in support of fully funding the school budget for the 2025-2026 school year. As taxpayers and registered voters the outcome regarding school funding will influence how we decide to vote in future years. Kids matter! They are our future! The schools are already working so hard to make things work without enough staff and supplies. Give our schools the money they desperately need to educate our kids!

Lazaro and Christine Gonzales

From: Corinne Happel <corinne.happel@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 4, 2025 11:23 PM
To: CouncilMail; Budget Testimony; boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org

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

Dear County Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony at the County Council's Budget Hearing last Wednesday night.

I wanted to follow up on a couple of comments that council members made regarding Blueprint.

Reading through the mission and pillars of Blueprint, the state initiative was designed to be **additive**. Supports were to be put in place to make education **even better for all Maryland students**. It is now our mandate to find ways to fund this as a county.

One to two years of preschool access does not suddenly make the next 13 years not matter.

Here are a couple of key quotes in Blueprint: "The Blueprint will increase state funding for education over the next 10 years, **enrich student experiences and accelerate student outcomes**, as well as **improve the quality of education for all children in Maryland**, especially those who have been historically underserved."

Improving the quality of education for all children in Maryland includes improving the quality of education for all children in Howard County.

"The Blueprint for Maryland's Future and the updated CCR standard are **not intended to alter the need for high quality programs and content in fine arts, civics, physical education, and other areas that are necessary to provide a holistic education and enable every student to be well-rounded and meet the CCR standard.**"

If we continue to cut programs that enrich all students whether they be the number of elementary GT teachers per school, music teachers per school, teacher to student ratios, special education teachers and support staff, or any school service that benefits our children's education, we do a disservice to the community.

Please work with the county to fund our schools. As described in my testimony, we have already witnessed how cutting 1:1 special education support staff has decreased available staff in elementary schools to help students with basic skills like reading. This harms all children.

Below is a written copy of my testimony last week.

I appreciate all efforts that you make to find funding for our schools.

Thanks in advance,
Corinne Happel, MD

My name is Dr. Corinne Happel.

As a board-certified pediatrician and parent, I'm advocating for funding for the Howard County Public School System. Per last night's report from the superintendent, the county is almost \$30 million short of funding currently mandated items and existing school staffing and programs. Without additional funding from the county council, our schools will again have significant cuts this year.

Funding the school budget tells our children: You are important. You are our future.

In Howard County, we have a vision of Educational Excellence. Families re-locate here for that excellence. The county should provide the funding requested to maintain this vision.

Each year, we are chipping away at programs and services offered in our schools to school-aged children and their families. Each loss is not a silo. As we cut one item on the budget, the negative effects are felt in other areas. For example, earlier this month, I learned from school leaders that **because of cuts to 1:1 staffing supports for certain children with special needs, paraeducators are being pulled from helping children with reading to helping keep children safe.** While I applaud efforts to keep children and staff safe, it is clear that what we think of as an isolated cut negatively affects all students. **Children who are struggling to read are receiving decreased support because of last year's cuts to 1:1 support aides and without increased funding, it is likely that their classes will increase in size next year too.**

On a similar note, children who are not sufficiently challenged become disengaged and disruptive, particularly in grades 3 through 5, where there are few accelerated learning opportunities outside of students' contact with GT teachers in GT math classes and in curriculum extension units. Yet elementary GT teachers are again being discussed as an item to reduce. **Many accelerated learners in these grade levels are already not being sufficiently challenged and as a result are becoming disengaged and/or are disrupting classroom activities.** Whether a child is disengaged or disruptive, not being appropriately challenged pulls teachers' attention away from the class as a whole and detracts from learning for all students and will get worse if cuts happen.

My family enjoys playing Jenga, a block tower game that requires you to take a block out of the base of the structure and place it on the top until the tower finally tips over. Imagine that block tower is our vision of Howard County as a sanctuary of educational excellence. Each year, the county cuts another block from the foundation of the tower and hopes not to topple the vision. In addition to cuts to 1:1 support aides, last year the county increased class sizes for all middle and high schools. We know increased class sizes are associated with poorer student performance.

When does it stop? We know that the game ends when the tower topples over. When Howard County becomes a mediocre school district. When families who can, move away because of lackluster school programs or choose to enroll their children in private schools. When children who could have thrived and succeeded, don't.

The County Council has the opportunity to work with the county to find additional resources. **I encourage you to consider the ideas proposed by educational advocates that describe revenue sources that would not cut funding from other current county budget items.**

Cutting funds to education, cuts the vision of Howard County as a place of educational excellence. Please find funding for the proposed 2025-26 operating budget for the Howard County Public School System. Our children are our future.

From: Amanda Heir <amanda.heir@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 8:58 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fully fund HCPSS budget - or our entire community will decline

[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 parent of a child at Pointers Run Elementary. I am extremely concerned about the funding gap of at least \$ 29.2 M of the operating budget.

My son's classroom is so cramped the desks fill the entire classroom and it's hard to move around. We have portables that are essentially permanent structures at this point. I understand the budget cuts will impact staffing - how can the schools function with even less staff and larger class sizes, especially in cramped conditions?

If this budget isnt funded, the school system will suffer and many families will leave the area. I already know many families who have pulled their children out of public schools and have moved to other counties or moved closer to live near private schools in Baltimore county. These are families have been very involved and strengthened our communities- volunteered in our schools, extra curricular activities/coaches, and supported our neighborhoods, etc . We have lost them from our community. With this funding chaos, as well as redistricting controversies, we are losing even more families and not attracting new families to Howard county.

This will be disastrous to our students and our entire community. Please find a way to fund this budget.

Thank you

Amanda Heir
6308 Victorious Song Lane
Clarksville MD

From: Amy Morrison Baker <a.morrisonbaker@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:04 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore Full Funding to HCPSS in FY 26

[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'm writing as a concerned parent to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operating Budget.

HCPSS has faced years of underfunding. This year, the system needs at least \$29.2 million just to maintain current services. Without it, we'll see larger class sizes, fewer programs, and staff layoffs — all of which hurt our students. It's unacceptable that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a core service and should be protected, not sacrificed. The percentage of Howard County Public Schools System share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept up with historic norms and inflation.

Please prioritize students and restore funding to HCPSS.

Thank you,
Amy Morrison Baker
Mother of students at Cedar Lane School and Long Reach High School
5652 Roundtree Lane
Columbia, MD 21045

From: Andrea Aldrich <andrea.nk.aldrich@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 6:18 PM
To: CouncilMail; Budget Testimony
Subject: FUND OUR SCHOOLS!!!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[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 as a concerned parent in Howard County to urge you to restore full funding to the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) in the FY26 Operating Budget.

Over the past several years, HCPSS has been consistently underfunded. To maintain even a same-services budget this year, the school system needs at least \$80.6 million. Without this funding, our community will face larger class sizes, reductions in essential programs, and layoffs of valued staff --all of which directly impact the quality of education for our students. It is troubling that when financial pressures arise, it is our schools that are first in line for service reductions. The school system should not be leading the way in cuts. Education is a core public service — not a luxury item to be scaled back.

Moreover, recent investment reports suggest the county will have at least \$10 million more in available funds than currently projected. Instead of shifting "extra" money into PAYGO projects, we should prioritize critical services like education. Our students, teachers, and schools should not be asked to sacrifice while funding is diverted elsewhere. We have already made so many cuts to education in recent years. Class sizes are larger than ever. Buildings are deteriorating. Programs are being cut or downsized. I am sick of seeing increased class sizes, cuts to special education, cuts to music and GT as options. These are the most important things our students need. We can not afford any more cuts!!

Howard County's reputation for excellence is built on its schools. House values will deteriorate. More and more families will choose private schools if we do not properly fund our schools. I urge you to prioritize our students and schools by restoring the necessary funding to HCPSS.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
Andrea Aldrich

From: Bonnie Zeitler <bonniezeitler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 7:56 PM
To: CouncilMail; Budget Testimony
Subject: Fully Fund HCPSS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Good evening, I am writing to ask you to fully fund the amount of money requested by the Howard Count Board of Education. Public schools are the biggest reason people move and stay in Howard County. Without your funding, really important programs like strings and GT will be taken away from students. We want the children to have this much more than we want a fancy library or performing arts venue. Please reallocate funds to what matters to families. Respectfully yours, Bonnie Zeitler

From: GCES PTA <gcespta@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 8:58 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore Full Funding to HCPSS in FY26

[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'm writing as a concerned parent to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operations Budget.

HCPSS has faced years of underfunding. This year, the system needs at least \$80.6 million just to maintain current services. Without it, we'll see larger class sizes, fewer programs, and staff layoffs all of which hurt our students.

It's unacceptable that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a core service and should be protected, not sacrificed. The percentage of Howard County Public Schools System share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept of with historic norms and inflation.

Our children deserve to keep their lower class sizes, their enrichment and G&T programs and their qualified teachers!

Please prioritize students and restore funding to HCPSS.

Thank you,

Bruce Webster

PTA President

Gorman Crossing Elementary

Email: gces.pta@gmail.com

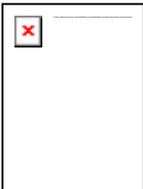
Website: gcespta.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gormangators>

Twitter: @GCESPTA

Instagram: gormancrossingpta

Join the PTA. Together we can make a difference.



From: Corinne Happel <corinne.happel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 8:48 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please FUND OUR SCHOOLS

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

Dear County Council,

I received a call from a friend and long-term resident in Howard County on Friday telling me to take my beautiful family and "get out." This is the sentiment going around the community. Howard County is gradually cutting teachers and programs for children and by the time my children go through the school system, cuts will be so devastating that it is just not worth paying Howard County taxes and the high cost of living.

I don't want to believe this, but when I see the list of cuts planned (copied below here), I just don't see this as sustainable.

Please fund our schools. Cutting student enrollment will only further decrease funding that comes into our school system.

Sincerely,
Corinne Happel, MD

The following have been noted as possible planned cuts and the dollar savings (but note that total dollar values are only \$19 million and we need \$29.2 million in cuts to balance the budget).

-Class size increase: \$6 million

-Eliminate MS Gen Ed Paraeducators: \$255,000

-Reduce ES paraeducators: \$4 million

-Reduce HS Teacher Secretaries: \$351,000

-Reduce HS/ARL Media Specialists: \$1.4 million

-Reduce Dual Enrollment: \$300,000

-Eliminate 3rd grade strings: \$1.1 million

-Reduce ES GT teachers: \$3.6 million

-Reduce Non-School-Based Staff: \$2.0 million

-----TOTAL savings \$19.0 million, still have a \$10.2 million shortage.

From: Jennifer Hammond <myannaliese@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 12:45 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Here we go AGAIN 😞

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

Dear Memembers of the Board of Education, Superintendent Barnes and County Executive Ball,

While I fear my email may just end up in a long list of unread annoyance, I truly hope at least one of you will take a moment to digest the contents. It is with deep frustration and profound sadness that I write to each of you this evening. This time of year is often filled with budget woes and anxieties, and somehow the answer for cuts ALWAYS arrives at cuts to the music programs in our county. It seems that promises made are so often forgotten, and the children of Howard County are the ones who repeatedly end up paying.

Many of you may remember my personal testimony delivered in the fall of 2024 regarding the necessity for strict cell phone policy reform. I shared that my son was the victim of a horrible doctored picture that was "dropped" to students at neighboring schools. In my testimony, I shared that my son wanted to take his life and suffered a deep depression following the incident. While I was testifying, Superintendent Barnes put his hand to his chest and mouthed "I'm sorry". At the conclusion of my testimony, three board members came out into the hallway to speak with me, and I shared with them that one thing that saved my son was his involvement in the music program and Marching Band. I explained to them that his involvement gave him a safe place; it provided a refuge to deal with the flood of emotions and anger he was feeling. The music program was a critical component of his healing journey and even today he will loudly declare, without hesitation, that the BEST part of his high school experience was being a member of the symphonic band at Glenelg High School. Many would assume that his best experience was being a part of the state champions soccer team or his track involvement. However, music is what provided him with happiness. Music provided him with a place to belong. Music provided an outlet for him to grow both academically and artistically, providing the courage to apply to top 4 year institutions and being accepted by almost all of them. Music education was the key to a successful high school experience.

A study found in Psychology Today from May of 2024 states "Students who participate in music-related activities between grades 7-12 achieve significantly higher scores on science, math, and English exams in high school than non-musical classmates". This study even made appropriate adjustments for socioeconomic differences. This study is NOT an outlier. The data continues to tell the real truth - music education is ESSENTIAL for academic success. While not every HCPSS student will avail themselves of music education, it cannot be ignored that a substantial difference in outcomes results when access to music education is significantly reduced or denied altogether. While budget cuts are unavoidable, I implore you to stop believing that music education should take more than an equal portion of those cuts.

World class musicians don't just happen by chance. They are cultivated through thousands of hours of time, dedication and education in classrooms just like those found in Howard County. For decades, our county has been a shining example of what quality arts education should look like. Please thoughtfully consider how you can bridge the gap in funding without causing the majority of the burden to fall on the music programs. According to the stated mission of the board of education, each of you have chosen "to provide leadership for excellence in teaching and learning by fostering a climate for deliberate change through policy and community engagement". It is time for introspective reflection on how well you have been a leader to provide excellence in teaching and learning, if at the helm of your leadership, many of our most beloved programs are subject to significant cuts. The families of Howard County are depending on each of you to do what you have been charged to do. Please don't fail our students.

With hope,
Jennifer Hammond

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[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:05 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067287 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067287

Case Opened: 05-06-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-06-2025 09:04:50 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Jessica Estrogano <jessica.estrogano@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 11:53 AM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: boe@hcpss.org; Email - Mine <benestrogano@gmail.com>
Subject: Fully Fund HCPSS

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

Good Morning,

My name is Jessica Estrogano and I am a parent of a student at Jeffers Hill Elementary School. Our school is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this

year, and has never had a renovation. Our school is overcrowded, underfunded, and underserved. We are Title 1 eligible, but Howard County drew the line above us, so we do not benefit from Title 1 funding. This is unfair to every single child at this school. The children in this county need to close the gap between what the Howard County Public School System needs and what the County Executive has proposed in his county budget. The screenshot attached is from the superintendent's report to the Board of Education.

The most recent discussions I've heard about the budget are that class sizes will be increased and the Gifted and Talented program will be eliminated at elementary schools. Please, don't do this to our kids. Studies show smaller class sizes lead to better behavior and test scores. The Howard County Board of Education voted in the blueprint that leads to a spending increase of almost \$10M that the county isn't funding. The Howard County Council, specifically Jones, Rigby, and Yungman, consistently vote in favor of development and, as a result, overcrowd and degrade our schools. The Howard County Council consistently does not give HCPSS the budget to hire more teachers, build new schools, or even to keep up with deferred maintenance. This is unacceptable.

Please do the right thing and fix the budget issues you've created with over development and no infrastructure support. Please stop making our children pay the price for poor decision making by adults.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Jessica Estrogano
443-404-8535
jessica.estrogano@gmail.com<<mailto:jessica.estrogano@gmail.com>>

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6106230

From: Kimberly Hampton <kbnelson79@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 8:54 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RESTORE FULL FUNDING to HCPSS in FY26

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[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'm writing as a concerned parent to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operating Budget.

HCPSS has faced years of underfunding. This year, the system needs a minimum of \$29.2 million just to maintain current services. Without it, we'll see larger class sizes, fewer programs, and staff layoffs - all of which hurt our students.

It's unacceptable that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a core service and should be protected, not sacrificed. The percentage of HCPSS share of recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept up with historic norms and inflation.

My daughter's school, Phelps Luck Elementary, is overcrowded. The entire 5th grade are in portables. Decreasing the number of staff to help educate all of these students is only going to hurt the students. It's unacceptable. Please restore full funding to the budget.

Thank you,

Kimberly Hampton
Columbia, MD 21045

From: Lindsay Unger <lunger712@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY26 HCPSS Funding

[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,

It's extremely upsetting as a tax payer who was brought to the county for the public education system, to learn that the percent funding allocated to HCPSS decreases each year. As the cost of sustaining our existing resources increases, we must increase funding just to sustain our needs let alone adapt to best support our changing population.

I am a proponent of raising taxes longer term to help cover the needs of our school system. If HCPSS continues to not have funding to meet our needs, we will need to move to a private school. We cannot have larger class sizes, resources removed from our most gifted and our most in need. Our education outcomes are not strong enough and this fight is exhausting each year.

Please recognize the importance of our schools to its residents and prioritize the funding to HCPSS!

Thank you!

Lindsay Unger
3918 River Walk, Ellicott City, MD 21042 (Parent of two HCPSS elementary school students)

From: B. FAK-ADE <bukolafakunle@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 8:55 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore Full Funding to HCPSS in FY25-26

[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'm writing as a concerned parent to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 operating budget.

HCPSS has faced years of underfunding. This year, the system needs at least \$29.2 million just to maintain current services. Without it, we'll see larger class sizes, fewer programs, and staff layoffs— all of which hurt our students.

It's acceptable that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a core service and should be protected, not sacrificed. The percentage of Howard County Public Schools' share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept up with historic norms and inflation.

I moved to the county 5 years ago because of the school systems, and I am afraid that I may need to make hard decisions to ensure that my children have the best education. I love this county and I would like it to get better.

Please prioritize students and restore funding to HCPSS.

Thank you,
Olubukola Adeyemi PharmD
PTA delegate for Dayton Oaks Elementary

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:05 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067286 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067286

Case Opened: 05-06-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-06-2025 09:04:49 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Sherry S. <sherry.smalls@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 8:49 PM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Restore Full HCPSS Funding for FY26

[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'm writing as a concerned parent to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System for the operating budget FY26.

HCPSS has faces years of underfunded. This year the System needs

atleast \$80.6 million just to maintain current services.

It's unacceptable that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten.

We bought as house here 13 years ago because of the education system and would like to stay and enjoy the public school but it may unfortunately not be the best place for my GT students.

I am requesting minimum of \$29.2million to be restored back to the budget.

Please prioritize students and funding to HCPSS.

Thank you

Sherry Smalls
Elkridge,MD

Sherry C. Smalls, M.H.A., M.B.A.

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6106237

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067458 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067458

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:25 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Alison Daniels <alison_daniels@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:46 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Alison Daniels
alison_daniels@hcpss.org<mailto:alison_daniels@hcpss.org>
10045 Cottonmill Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21046

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112910

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:12 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067449 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067449

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:11:08 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Alison Kaplan <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:43 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Alison Kaplan
alisoncederbaum@gmail.com<mailto:alisoncederbaum@gmail.com>
4937 Brampton Pkwy
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112875

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:19 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067482 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067482

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:18:28 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Allison Browne <allison_browne@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:56 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

This is just SO disheartening! We say have one of the "best" school systems in the country? We don't get a raises, we can't live on one income, and now our jobs are in jeopardy? I implore you to DO THE RIGHT THING!!

Thank you, Allison Browne- Paraeducator

Allison Browne
allison_browne@hcpss.org<mailto:allison_browne@hcpss.org>
6298 Leafy Screen
Columbia, Maryland 21044

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6113007

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067415 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067415

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:38:01 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Allyson Alderton <al_alerton@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:36 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Al Alderton

Allyson Alderton
al_alderton@hcpss.org<mailto:al_alderton@hcpss.org>
9708 Greenel Rd
Damascus, Maryland 20872

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112200

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067397 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067397

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:42 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Amanda Beck <amanda_beck@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:34 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Amanda Beck
amanda_beck@hcpss.org<mailto:amanda_beck@hcpss.org>
4500 Sheppard Lane
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112145

From: Amelia Rubenstein <ameliarubenstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 3:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore Funding

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

Dear Council,

I am a lifelong resident of Howard County and was educated in Howard County schools. I'm writing to urge you to restore 29.2 million to the school's budget. Our schools are a point of pride for this county, nothing is more important than the education of our future citizens.

Amelia Rubenstein, LCSW-C

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067375 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067375

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:59:00 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Amy Kelly <amy_kelly@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:32 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Amy Kelly
amy_kelly@hcpss.org<mailto:amy_kelly@hcpss.org>
26 Dunvegan Rd
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111269

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:41 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067428 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067428

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:40:32 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Amy Linderman <amy_linderman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:38 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Amy Linderman
amy_linderman@hcpss.org<mailto:amy_linderman@hcpss.org>
9528 Mary Geneva Lane
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112271

From: Andrea Stremmel <astremmel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 6:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Prioritize Our Schools — Restore Full Funding to HCPSS

[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 as a concerned parent, staff member, and resident in Howard County to urge you to restore full funding to the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) in the FY26 Operating Budget.

Over the past several years, HCPSS has been consistently underfunded. To maintain even a same-services budget this year, the school system needs at least \$80.6 million. Without this funding, our community will face larger class sizes, reductions in essential programs, and layoffs of valued staff -- all of which directly impact the quality of education for our students. It is troubling that when financial pressures arise, it is our schools that are first in line for service reductions. The school system should not be leading the way in cuts. Education is a core public service — not a luxury item to be scaled back.

Moreover, recent investment reports suggest the county will have at least \$10 million more in available funds than currently projected. Instead of shifting "extra" money into PAYGO projects, we should prioritize critical services like education. Our students, teachers, and schools should not be asked to sacrifice while funding is diverted elsewhere.

As someone who works with our students and staff members every day, I struggle to understand why a financially prioritized school system is not a given. I recognize that there are other needs around the county, but if we do not prioritize our children, we won't have the future that we all want for our own children and our community.

It is exhausting as a staff member to be worried about my coworkers and friends and whether or not they will have a job the following year. It is also exhausting as a parent to

have to fight every single year for what my children deserve. Surely you recognize this. It's embarrassing, frustrating, and painful.

Howard County's reputation for excellence is built on its schools. I urge you to prioritize our students and schools by restoring the necessary funding to HCPSS.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
Andrea Stremmel
D1

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:02 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067388 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067388

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:01:01 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Andrew Gleeson <andrew_gleeson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:33 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Tommy Gleeson

Andrew Gleeson
andrew_gleeson@hcpss.org<mailto:andrew_gleeson@hcpss.org>
152 Westbury RD
Lutherville, Maryland 21093

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111332

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067360 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067360

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:56:45 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Angela Lamas Martin <angela_lamas_martin@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Angela Lamas Martin
angela_lamas_martin@hcpss.org<mailto:angela_lamas_martin@hcpss.org>
18 Shady Nook Avenue
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111212

From: Annette Love <annettelove1978@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 6:10 PM
To: Budget Testimony; CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Funding

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Hello! I realize budget cuts are inevitable, especially with our current federal administration and the impact that will have on all education funding. However, please do not find the money to balance your budget by reducing media specialists, paraeducators, GT teachers & programs and 3rd grade strings. Those are all incredible programs and positions that made Howard County Schools wonderful.

I worked as a classroom teacher and then elementary media specialist in the county for 12 years before staying at home with my own child. Afterwards I worked for a year in Prince George's County and 1.5 years in Montgomery County. Howard is amazing and you need to keep it that way. Selfishly I hope you do because I hope to return to live, work, and send my kids to Howard County Schools.

Please fund the school budget and if you need to make cuts, find another way.

Thank you! I know these times are mind-boggling tough. Thank you for all the hard work you are doing.

--Annette C. H. Nelson

From: Ashleigh Magrin <ashleigh.magrin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 8:35 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore Full Funding to HCPSS in FY26

[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'm writing as a concerned **PARENT, TEACHER AND RESIDENT** to urge you to **fully fund** the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operating Budget.

HCPSS has faced years of underfunding. This year, the system needs \$29.2 million just to maintain current services. Without it, we'll see larger class sizes, fewer programs, and staff layoffs — all of which hurt our students.

It is absolutely unacceptable, and quite frankly, unconscionable, that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a core service and should be protected, not sacrificed. The percentage of Howard County Public Schools System share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept up with historic norms and inflation. The majority of our HCPSS teachers cannot afford to live in Howard County. That's wrong. On so many levels.

Today is National Teacher Appreciation Day. I cannot think of anything that would make me, as an HCPSS teacher, feel more appreciated than to know that my class sizes would not be going up, that I would be confident that I will have a job next year, and to know that the work that I do is valued. I don't want to fight with other educators and disciplines, to decide whose work is more important. EVERYTHING that we do is important. We are in dire need of MORE teachers, special educators, content specialists, and paraeducators in our buildings. Instead, we're watching the Board of Education decide which adults are no longer necessary. We can no longer function on an austerity budget.

PLEASE prioritize students and restore funding to HCPSS.

Thank you,
Ashleigh Magrin
OMHS Educator
Howard County Resident
5359 Sunny Field Court
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Ashleigh Magrin

--

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067400 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067400

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:44 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Beatrice Withee <beatrice_withee@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:35 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Beatrice Withee
beatrice_withee@hcpss.org<mailto:beatrice_withee@hcpss.org>
5248 Open Window
Columbia, Maryland 21044

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112146

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:10 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067439 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067439

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:08:52 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Becky Romans <becky_romans@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:41 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Becky Romans
becky_romans@hcpss.org<mailto:becky_romans@hcpss.org>
5167 Talbots Landing
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112840

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:41 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067429 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067429

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:40:33 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Betsy Fetchko <betsy_fetchko@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:38 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Betsy Fetchko
betsy_fetchko@hcpss.org<mailto:betsy_fetchko@hcpss.org>
3624 Joycin Ct
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112276

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067455 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067455

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:23 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Bobbi Guizzotti <bobbi_guizzotti@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:46 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Bobbi Guizzotti

Bobbi Guizzotti
bobbi_guizzotti@hcpss.org<mailto:bobbi_guizzotti@hcpss.org>
8502 Marybeth Way
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112931

From: Bonnie Bricker <bonbricker@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 8:45 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fully fund HCPSS' budget

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

Our students need you to find a path to fully fund our public schools. For too long we have watched the schools flounder under the enormous pressures of increased class sizes and other operational budget cuts.

Please commit to funding our schools to the levels needed to help our students succeed. This current time demands that we do more than the basic minimum; we need, more than ever, to help our children flourish to meet the demands of the very near future.

Thank you for your consideration.

--
Bonnie Bricker
301-648-8939
pronouns: she/her/hers

From: Bridget Mewbourne <bmewbourne1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:01 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore Full Funding to HCPSS in FY26

[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'm writing as a concerned parent of two students of HCPS, specifically Thunder Hill ES, to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operating Budget.

HCPSS has faced years of underfunding. This year, the system needs \$29.2 million just to maintain current services. Without it, we'll see larger class sizes, fewer programs, and staff layoffs — all of which hurt our students.

It's unacceptable that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a core service and should be protected, not sacrificed. The percentage of Howard County Public Schools System share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept up with historic norms and inflation.

Please prioritize students and restore funding to HCPSS.

Thank you,

Bridget Mewbourne
410.227.1782

5225 raccoon court
Columbia, Maryland 21045

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:02 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067385 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067385

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:00:26 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Brittney Melvin <brittney_melvin@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:32 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Brittney Melvin
brittney_melvin@hcpss.org<mailto:brittney_melvin@hcpss.org>
5923 Gentle Call
Clarksville, Maryland 21029

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111328

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067376 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067376

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:59:00 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Brittney Washington <brittney_washington@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:32 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Brittney Washington
brittney_washington@hcpss.org<mailto:brittney_washington@hcpss.org>
7830 Sage Ave
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111278

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067369 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067369

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:56:49 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Bryan Stuller <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Bryan Stuller
bryanstuller@hotmail.com<mailto:bryanstuller@hotmail.com>
15350 Oak Orchard Road
New Windsor, Maryland 21776

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG611237

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067361 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067361

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:56:45 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Catherine Kriner <catherine_kriner@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:30 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Catherine Kriner
catherine_kriner@hcpss.org<mailto:catherine_kriner@hcpss.org>
10300 Gretchen Nicole Ct
Woodstock, Maryland 21163

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111229

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:16 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067467 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067467

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:32 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Charles Kramer <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:46 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Charles Kramer
remarque89@gmail.com<mailto:remarque89@gmail.com>
8186 Riverside Drive
Pasadena, Maryland 21122

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112942

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067399 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067399

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:43 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Christina Pettit <christina_pettit@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:34 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Christina Pettit
christina_pettit@hcpss.org<mailto:christina_pettit@hcpss.org>
8185 Elko Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112115

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:12 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067452 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067452

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:12:07 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Christine Hughes <christine_hughes@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:44 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Concerns from a HoCo teacher

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council: What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? PLEASE come and spend a day in some of these classrooms, especially in older schools with smaller classrooms. My son's school has said no to carrying backpacks because kids cannot walk amongst the packed desks without tripping. How many staff should be laid off? As a resident and parent, I've watched taxes increase tremendously in the past few years, but my 4 children's experience in schools is going down. Do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Christine Hughes
HCPSS teacher, parent of 4

Christine Hughes
christine_hughes@hcpss.org<mailto:christine_hughes@hcpss.org>
3250 Starting Gate Court
Woodbine, Maryland 21797

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112885

From: Christopher Forand <chris@forand.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 7:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: School@Forand.Org; Lisa Forand
Subject: Prioritize Our Schools — Restore Full Funding to HCPSS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[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 as a concerned parent in Howard County to urge you to assure the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) have the full necessary FY26 Operating Budget to proceed without eliminating more positions, increasing class size, and reducing student support, special educators, and summer opportunities.

I have one child now at Purdue who made use of all of the elementary gifted and talented programs and innumerable STEM, FBLA, sporting, and other opportunities throughout high school. One of my most vivid recent memories is that her tennis team did not have money for necessary tennis equipment (I think they were even limited to not having enough balls!). Yes, that memory is ingrained right next to her presenting her NASA Hunch project at the Johnson Space Center. Her boyfriend, a current senior, has used dual enrollment at least throughout his senior year (maybe earlier) to complete math through differential equations. We cannot fail these students. The county school system has actually failed my second child, and I am paying for her to be in private school to meet her needs. Any further increases in class size and reduction in services, especially ones necessary to prepare our children for a high skills future job market are intolerable, and frankly, if I were back in my younger family days, would make me seriously consider not moving to Howard County at all.

Howard County's reputation for excellence is built on its schools. Reputation is extremely hard to rebuild once lost, and it has been going in the wrong direction since 2020. The FY2025 gap of \$31.1M and proposed FY2026 gap of \$29.2M will further erode this reputation, and before we know it, it will be gone.

A concerned parent who has used the system and is currently paying to not use it because of shortcomings.

Christopher T. Forand
3305 Great Valley Dr
West Friendship, MD 21794

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067464 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067464

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:29 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Crystal Johnson <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:47 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Crystal Johnson
bluec81@gmail.com<mailto:bluec81@gmail.com>
8716 Gilly Way
Randallstown, Maryland 21133

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112922

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067373 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067373

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:58:57 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Daniel Hirsch <daniel_hirsch@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Daniel Hirsch
daniel_hirsch@hcpss.org<mailto:daniel_hirsch@hcpss.org>
4603 Foster Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21224

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111276

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067378 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067378

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:59:02 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Daniel Scalley <daniel_scalley@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:32 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Daniel Scalley
daniel_scalley@hcpss.org<mailto:daniel_scalley@hcpss.org>
8405 Oakton Ln
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG611270

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067420 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067420

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:38:05 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: David Young <david_young@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:36 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

David Young
Special Education Teacher
Wilde Lake High School

David Young
david_young@hcpss.org<mailto:david_young@hcpss.org>
901 Village Gate Drive
Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112210

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067409 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067409

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:54 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Dawn Trotter <dawn_trotter@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:33 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Dawn Trotter
dawn_trotter@hcpss.org<mailto:dawn_trotter@hcpss.org>
833 Glen Allen Drive
Baltimore, Maryland 21229

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112170

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:16 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067468 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067468

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:32 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Deborah Pulone <deborah_pulone@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:45 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Deborah Pulone

Deborah Pulone
deborah_pulone@hcpss.org<mailto:deborah_pulone@hcpss.org>
809 Charles James Cir
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112941

From: Ebbie Slacum Hodnett <eslacum@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 2:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Tiffany Tresler; Kory Hiel
Subject: Restore Full Funding to HCPSS in FY26!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[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'm writing as a concerned parent and HoCo resident to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operating Budget.

HCPSS has faced years of underfunding. This year, the system needs \$29.2 million just to maintain current services. Without it, we'll see larger class sizes, fewer programs, and staff layoffs — all of which hurt our students.

It's unacceptable that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a core service and should be protected, not sacrificed. The percentage of Howard County Public Schools System share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept up with historic norms and inflation.

My children's school, Triadelphia Ridge ES, is already stretched very thin with support staff, large class sizes and we are already over capacity! We are down a custodian and currently have a long term sub for gym. We truly can't afford more cuts.

Please prioritize our students and restore funding to HCPSS!!!

Thank you,
Elizabeth Hodnett
3364 Burton Dr
Ellicott City, MD 21042
Triadelphia Ridge ES
K & 3rd Grader

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067377 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067377

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:59:01 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Elizabeth Capone <elizabeth_a_capone@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:32 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Capone
elizabeth_a_capone@hcpss.org<mailto:elizabeth_a_capone@hcpss.org>
5141 Ilchester Woods Way
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111279

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067460 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067460

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:26 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Elizabeth Fryer <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:45 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Fryer
e_kimes@hotmail.com<mailto:e_kimes@hotmail.com>
5792 Sunset View Lane
Frederick, Maryland 21703

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112919

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:01 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067387 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067387

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:00:28 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Elizabeth Getsinger <elizabeth_getsinger@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:33 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Getsinger
elizabeth_getsinger@hcpss.org<mailto:elizabeth_getsinger@hcpss.org>
1242 S. Grantley Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21229

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111322

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:19 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067474 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067474

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:18:24 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Elizabeth Nieves-Soto <elizabeth_nieves-soto@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:52 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Nieves-Soto

Elizabeth Nieves-Soto
elizabeth_nieves-soto@hcpss.org<mailto:elizabeth_nieves-soto@hcpss.org>
8418 Kings Meade Way
Columbia, Maryland 21046

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6113016

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:11 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067447 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067447

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:11:03 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Elizabeth Yeager <elizabeth_yeager@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:42 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Yeager
elizabeth_yeager@hcpss.org<mailto:elizabeth_yeager@hcpss.org>
7611 Golden Slumber Ln
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112870

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067398 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067398

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:42 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Ellynn Self <ellynn_self@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:34 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Ellynn Self
Howard County Resident and
HCPSS employee

Ellynn Self
ellynn_self@hcpss.org<mailto:ellynn_self@hcpss.org>
6217 Free Stone Court
Columbia, Maryland 21045

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112114

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067374 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067374

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:58:59 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Emily Addalia <emily_addalia@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:32 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Questions from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Emily Addalia
emily_addalia@hcpss.org<mailto:emily_addalia@hcpss.org>
11070 Resort Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG611277

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067419 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067419

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:38:04 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Emma Patterson <emma_patterson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:36 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Emma Patterson
emma_patterson@hcpss.org<mailto:emma_patterson@hcpss.org>
8938 Town and Country Blvd
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112209

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067381 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067381

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:59:03 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Eric Wall <eric_wall@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:32 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Eric Wall
eric_wall@hcpss.org<mailto:eric_wall@hcpss.org>
10913 Hillcrest Dr
Laurel, Maryland 20723

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111272

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067454 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067454

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:22 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Erica Levinson <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:44 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Erica Levinson
ehlevinson@gmail.com<mailto:ehlevinson@gmail.com>
8201 16th Street
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112908

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067366 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067366

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:56:47 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Erica Thogersen <erica_thogersen@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Erica Thogersen

Erica Thogersen
erica_thogersen@hcpss.org<mailto:erica_thogersen@hcpss.org>
6200 Valencia Ln
Columbia, Maryland 21044

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111217

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:20 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067492 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067492

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:18:32 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Erika Park <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:56 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Erika Park
7th grade math teacher
Bonnie Branch Middle School

Erika Park
jedierika@yahoo.com<mailto:jedierika@yahoo.com>
5370 Briar Oak Court
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6113033

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:02 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067437 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067437

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:01:47 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Erin Schultz <erin_schultz@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:40 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Erin Schultz
erin_schultz@hcpss.org<mailto:erin_schultz@hcpss.org>
7708 Lake Circle
Pasadena, Maryland 21122

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112728

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067466 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067466

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:31 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Erin Winston <erin_winston@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:46 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Erin Winston
erin_winston@hcpss.org<mailto:erin_winston@hcpss.org>
9738 Hillsmere Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112927

From: Fiona Plays RBLX <lindzy168@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 5:08 PM
To: CouncilMail; Budget Testimony; Bank Of America - Lindzy Email Account; Lindzy Drop Box
Subject: HCCP / CHS

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

Restore Full Funding to HCPSS in FY26

Dear Howard County Council,

I am a HCPSS parent / resident of Howard County. I'm aware of the underfunding for the county public schools last year and this year. I want to know where my tax money goes.

We have a gap of \$29.2 million to fill. Otherwise, we will see the school keep going downhill and our neighborhood keeps losing its attraction, and that will adversely affect our property values.

I understand that Additional funding may be available by examining investment income more carefully. Please fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operating Budget and add \$29.2 million to make it happen.

Sincerely,

HCPSS Parent / resident of Howard County

Sent from my iPhone

From: Haidy Saleh-Abdelhakim <hsalehabdelhakim@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:07 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Prioritize Our Schools — Restore Full Funding to HCPSS

[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 as a concerned parent in Howard County to urge you to restore full funding to the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) in the FY26 Operating Budget.

Over the past several years, HCPSS has been consistently underfunded. To maintain even a same-services budget this year, the school system needs at least \$29.2 million. Without this funding, our community will face larger class sizes, reductions in essential programs, and layoffs of valued staff -- all of which directly impact the quality of education for our students. It is troubling that when financial pressures arise, it is our schools that are first in line for service reductions. The school system should not be leading the way in cuts. Education is a core public service — not a luxury item to be scaled back.

Moreover, recent investment reports suggest the county will have at least \$10 million more in available funds than currently projected. Instead of shifting "extra" money into PAYGO projects, we should prioritize critical services like education. Our students, teachers, and schools should not be asked to sacrifice while funding is diverted elsewhere.

As a parent of three children in HCPSS, I see firsthand how thin resources already are. We cannot afford to cut any deeper."

Howard County's reputation for excellence is built on its schools. I urge you to prioritize our students and schools by restoring the necessary funding to HCPSS.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this urgent matter.

Thank you,
Haidy Saleh
District 5

--

Haidy Saleh, MAcc

Cell: 775-770-0283

E-mail: hsalehabdelhakim@gmail.com

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:19 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067478 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067478

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:18:26 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Heather Green <heather_green@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:54 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS Needs Help!

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
A Tired, Very Tired Teacher

Heather Green
heather_green@hcpss.org<mailto:heather_green@hcpss.org>
4350 Old Field Lane
Hampstead, Maryland 21074

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6113021

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067401 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067401

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:47 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Heather Verron <heather_verron@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:36 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Heather Verron
heather_verron@hcpss.org<mailto:heather_verron@hcpss.org>
10618 Hunting Ln
Columbia, Maryland 21044

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112116

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067393 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067393

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:39 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Holly Cheung <HOLLY_CHEUNG@HCPSS.ORG>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:34 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Holly Cheung
HOLLY_CHEUNG@HCPSS.ORG<mailto:HOLLY_CHEUNG@HCPSS.ORG>
8973 Blue Pool
Columbia, Maryland 21045

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112111

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:10 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067441 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067441

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:09:07 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Hope Whye <hope_why@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:40 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Hope Whye
hope_why@hcpss.org<mailto:hope_why@hcpss.org>
1328 Willow Spring Rd
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112850

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067423 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067423

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:38:08 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: lisha Luo <lishahuan922@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:36 PM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Restore Full Funding to HCPSS in FY26

[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'm writing as a concerned parent to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operating Budget. Additional funding may be available by examining investment income more carefully.

HCPSS has faced years of underfunding. This year, the system needs \$29.2 million just to maintain current services. Without it, we'll see larger class sizes, fewer programs, and staff layoffs — all of which hurt our students.

It's unacceptable that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a core service and should be protected, not sacrificed. The percentage of Howard County Public Schools System share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept up with historic norms and inflation.

My child's school is already stretched thin. We can't afford more cuts.

Please prioritize students and restore funding to HCPSS.

Thank you,
Lisha Zhou
Centennial Lane Elementary School
District 5

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112218

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:56 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067355 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067355

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:54:49 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Jacquelyn DeBella <jacquelyndebella@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:55 AM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: restore funding to the 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,

I am writing you as a parent, resident (25 plus years), and employee to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System for the FY26 Operating Budget.

Due to underfunding over the years, my son has not gotten the services he needed . He is autistic , has ADHD, but is very smart. He should be in a comprehensive school. He can code in HTML, Python, C plus and other coding languages. Most recently he coded a project for UMD College Park in linear algebra. Due to staffing cuts over the years, bigger classes sizes, and lack of staff training, he was moved from program to program and now he is at Homewood. Homewood is a wonderful school but my son now has emotional and academic damage from 10 years of underfunding. During that time he was lost from the school, restrained and isolated, not given appropriate support so he failed his 7th grade year. He had no friends. He was also eating his lunch alone on a dirty hallway floor. To say we are disappointed with his educational journey is the understatement of the year. No child with an IEP or special needs should be treated this way. I feel if schools continue to be underfunded, there will be more cases like my son and higher need for private , non public placement which is very costly.

If you want to continue to promote this area as a destination for families, you must have strong schools. The schools also need to have programs that promote college and career readiness. If you have the same programs have every county, people will not pay top dollar to live here. Residents are already complaining about crime. If there are no GT offerings or after school orchestra, it will only get worse. There need to be a rich variety of offerings and it can not be basic.

In addition, the motto of this county seems to be to tell paras and teachers to do more with less. I would encourage you to visit a variety of area of schools and see how that is working out. Schools are responsible for shaping the future . Please allow us to do that with proper staffing, materials of instruction, training, schools that can have appropriate capacity and up to date learning spaces.

Thank you for your mindfulness over this process. I encourage you to contact the comission for the blueprint. If the blueprint is a requirement, the state of Maryland will need to provide more local resources or change the expectations. It is not fair to continue to threaten to cut areas of the curriculum year after year or the needed school supports.

Thank you for you time and talent.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jacquelyn DeBella

howardcountymd.gov



From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:56 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067350 – opened and unassigned



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067350

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:54:44 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Jen MacCormack <antijen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:43 AM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fully fund HCPSS!!!

[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,

I'm writing as a concerned parent of 3 kids in elementary school to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operating Budget.

HCPSS has been underfunded for many years and the system is under strain. This year, HCPSS needs \$29.2 million just to maintain the current level of services. Without it, huge cuts will be needed – cuts that will hurt

kids. Larger class sizes, fewer programs, and cuts to special education and paraeducator positions will make it harder for kids to learn and result in additional teacher burnout.

Over and over for the past few years, our schools are the first to suffer cuts when the budget is tight. Education is a critical public service and should be protected for the sake of our kids and communities. The HCPSS share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept up with historic norms and inflation – it needs to be increased to make sure our school system can properly support our kids' education.

I don't want my kids to lose special education support. I don't want my kids to give up music and art programs and squeeze into overcrowded classes. I don't want their teachers to try and hold it all together without the support of paraeducators.

Please prioritize our students and listen to our teachers when they're telling you what they need. Fully fund HCPSS. Do the right thing.

Thank you,
Jennifer MacCormack
6113 Loventree Rd Columbia MD

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111177

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067370 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067370

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:56:49 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Jennifer Hopping <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Jennifer Hopping
jennhopping@gmail.com<mailto:jennhopping@gmail.com>
6008 Claire Dr
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111243

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067461 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067461

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:27 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Jessica Dibenedetto <jessica_dibenedetto@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:44 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and Members of the County Council,

HCPSS is currently facing a \$29 million budget shortfall with no clear path

to close the gap. While County Executive Ball recently outlined reasons for not fully funding our schools, I still have one central question for him and for you:

If not this, what would you cut from HCPSS?

Reducing school funding without addressing the consequences places an unfair burden on the Board of Education. If you believe no additional funding should be provided this year, then please be clear with the community:

How much should class sizes increase?

Which programs should be eliminated?

How many staff positions should be cut?

Should teacher pay increases be frozen—even as we face an ongoing educator shortage?

If you're unable or unwilling to make those decisions publicly, I urge you instead to fully fund our schools. Our students and educators are counting on you to make the right choice.

Thank you for your time and commitment to our community.

Jessica Dibenedetto

jessica_dibenedetto@hcpss.org<mailto:jessica_dibenedetto@hcpss.org>

2844 Florence Rd

Woodbine, Maryland 21797

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112920

From: Jessica liu <jieliu2017@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:56 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Protect Our Schools — Restore HCPSS Funding

[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'm writing as a concerned parent to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) in the FY26 Operating Budget.

For years, HCPSS has suffered from chronic underfunding. This year alone, the system requires an additional \$29.2 million just to maintain its current level of services. Without this critical funding, we risk larger class sizes, program reductions, and staff layoffs—consequences that directly harm our students.

It is unacceptable that our schools are consistently among the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a foundational public service that should be protected—not compromised. Furthermore, HCPSS's share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept pace with historical norms or inflation, further eroding the quality of education in our county.

My child's school is already stretched thin. We can't afford more cuts. Any further reduction in Gifted and Talented or music teachers will significantly compromise the quality of education and weaken the foundation of skills and creativity our students need to thrive. In the long run, these cuts don't just hurt our children—they hurt the future of our county, state and America.

I urge you to prioritize our students and restore full funding to HCPSS. Our community's future depends on it.

Thank you for your time and service,

Jie Liu

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067456 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067456

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:24 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Jimmy Gallman <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:47 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Jimmy Gallman
cris4jim@gmail.com<mailto:cris4jim@gmail.com>
1139 Brigadoon Trail
Gwynn Oak, Maryland 21207

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112909

From: Jinsha Wang <jinshawang1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 6:59 PM
To: CouncilMail; Budget Testimony
Subject: Restore Full Funding to HCPSS in FY26

[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,

This is Jinsha Wang, My daughter Xinyu Luo is a student in Centennial elementary school in kindergarten. I'm writing as a concerned parent to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operating Budget. **Additional funding may be available by examining investment income more carefully.**

HCPSS has faced years of underfunding. This year, the system needs \$29.2 million just to maintain current services. Without it, we'll see larger class sizes, fewer programs, and staff layoffs — all of which hurt our students.

It's unacceptable that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a core service and should be protected, not sacrificed. The percentage of Howard County Public Schools System share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept up with historic norms and inflation.

My child's school is already stretched thin. We can't afford more cuts.

Please prioritize students and restore funding to HCPSS.

Thank you,

Jinsha Wang
District1

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067453 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067453

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:21 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Joy Mangiulli <joy_mangiulli@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:45 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fully Fund the HCPSS Budget

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

It is important that you prioritize education in our county. You can

demonstrate your commitment to our future by fully funding the HCPSS budget.

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

I am a GT Resource Teacher in HCPSS. My team services 60% of students in grades 4 and 5 as the primary instruction in Math. I work with 50% of 2-5 graders in seminars that promote love of learning through interest-based research and exploration. My team services another 30% of students in grades 3-5 in content-based learning. Finally, we work with every K-2 student through push-in instructions that teaches creativity and problem solving. Yet, for the past 2 years, I have been told my job is not important because of funding. Families come to Howard County for these programs. You are letting down the community by not funding the HCPSS budget.

Do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Joy Mangiulli
joy_mangiulli@hcpss.org<mailto:joy_mangiulli@hcpss.org>
8353 Wades Way
Jessup, Maryland 20794

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112907

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:00 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067435 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067435

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:59:17 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Joycelyn Bolar <joycelyn_bolar@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:39 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Joycelyn Bolar
joycelyn_bolar@hcpss.org<mailto:joycelyn_bolar@hcpss.org>
534
MILLERSVILLE, Maryland 21108

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112674

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:10 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067445 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067445

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:09:10 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Julianna Mackie <julianna_mackie@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:40 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Julianna Mackie
julianna_mackie@hcpss.org<mailto:julianna_mackie@hcpss.org>
5657 Blitheaire Garth
Columbia, Maryland 21045

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112853

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067371 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067371

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:56:50 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Julie Davis <julie_davis@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Julie Davis
julie_davis@hcpss.org<mailto:julie_davis@hcpss.org>
5850 Richards Valley Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG611242

From: Jun Wang <junwangje@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:28 PM
To: CouncilMail; Budget Testimony
Subject: Restore Full Funding to HCPSS in FY26

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[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,

My name is Jun Wang, a mom of two kids who are studying in Howard County Public School. I'm writing as a concerned parent to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operating Budget. **Additional funding may be available by examining investment income more carefully.**

HCPSS has faced years of underfunding. This year, the system needs \$29.2 million just to maintain current services. Without it, we'll see larger class sizes, fewer programs, and staff layoffs — all of which hurt our students.

It's unacceptable that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a core service and should be protected, not sacrificed. The percentage of Howard County Public Schools System share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept up with historic norms and inflation.

My child's school is already stretched thin. We can't afford more cuts.

Please prioritize students and restore funding to HCPSS.

Thank you,

Jun

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067408 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067408

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:53 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Kaitlyn Kessler <kaitlyn_kessler@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:35 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Kaitlyn Kessler
kaitlyn_kessler@hcpss.org<mailto:kaitlyn_kessler@hcpss.org>
612 Scott Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112169

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:10 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067443 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067443

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:09:09 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Kara Brooks-Odom <kara_brooks-odom@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:42 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a Howard County Special Educator,

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? (An additional 1-2 students per class in High school is up to 12 students and hours of planning and grading added to the workload) Which programs would you eliminate? (Why are we paying for PSAT's, that seems to be a better cut than music) How many staff should be laid off? (Para's and Secretaries are the backbone of the school!) Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Kara Odom

Kara Brooks-Odom
kara_brooks-odom@hcpss.org<mailto:kara_brooks-odom@hcpss.org>
8938 Old Frederick Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112845

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067457 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067457

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:24 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Katelyn Joudrey <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:45 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Katelyn Joudrey
katelynjoudrey@gmail.com<mailto:katelynjoudrey@gmail.com>
1068 Elm Road
halethorpe, Maryland 21227

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112932

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:10 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067442 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067442

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:09:08 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Katherine Copanic <kate@copanic.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:40 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Support our Schools

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

I'm writing to you not only as a constituent, but as someone who proudly

supported and voted for you, trusting your vision for our community's future. I'm deeply concerned about the proposed budget decisions that would require sacrifices from our public school system.

Our schools are more than a line item. They are the foundation of our county's long-term success. The strength of our public education is one of the most compelling reasons families choose to move here, stay here, and invest in our neighborhoods. Undermining this system now threatens to weaken the very fabric that binds our community together.

Cuts to our schools would mean larger class sizes, frozen educator salaries, declining morale, and fewer opportunities and programs for students. These consequences would ripple outward, impacting not just children and teachers, but the economic and cultural vitality of our county.

Our educators already give so much. Asking them to bear the brunt of fiscal tightening, while our children lose out on enrichment and individual support, sends the wrong message about our priorities. I believe we must find a way to balance the budget without compromising the excellence of our schools.

Please, protect the integrity of our public education system. I urge you to oppose any budget cuts that would diminish what makes our community so special.

Thank you for your service and leadership, and for considering this heartfelt appeal.

Katherine Copanic
kate@copanic.net<mailto:kate@copanic.net>
5008 Ravenhill Row
Columbia, Maryland 21044

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112851

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067365 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067365

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:56:47 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Katherine Reddy <katie_reddy@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Katherine Reddy
katie_reddy@hcpss.org<mailto:katie_reddy@hcpss.org>
2121 Mount Hebron Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG611230

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067380 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067380

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:59:03 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Katherine White <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:32 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Katherine White
kewwhite3@gmail.com<mailto:kewwhite3@gmail.com>
1514 Belt St
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111282

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067410 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067410

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:55 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Kathleen Maclaughlin <kathleen_maclaughlin@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:35 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Kathleen Maclaughlin
kathleen_maclaughlin@hcpss.org<mailto:kathleen_maclaughlin@hcpss.org>
9529 White Spring Way
Columbia, Maryland 21046

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112171

From: Kevin Brennan <kevinbrennan216@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore Full Funding to HCPSS

[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 as a concerned parent in Howard County to urge you to restore full funding to the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) in the FY26 Operating Budget.

Over the past several years, HCPSS has been consistently underfunded. To maintain even a same-services budget this year, the school system needs at least \$80.6 million. Without this funding, our community will face larger class sizes, reductions in essential programs, and layoffs of valued staff --all of which directly impact the quality of education for our students. It is troubling that when financial pressures arise, it is our schools that are first in line for service reductions. The school system should not be leading the way in cuts. Education is a core public service — not a luxury item to be scaled back.

Moreover, recent investment reports suggest the county will have at least \$10 million more in available funds than currently projected. Instead of shifting "extra" money into PAYGO projects, we should prioritize critical services like education. Our students, teachers, and schools should not be asked to sacrifice while funding is diverted elsewhere.

Howard County's reputation for excellence is built on its schools. I urge you to prioritize our students and schools by restoring the necessary funding to HCPSS.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
Kevin Brennan
Clarksville

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067383 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067383

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:59:04 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Kimberly Rodriguez <kimberly_e_rodriguez@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:32 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Kimberly Rodriguez
kimberly_e_rodriguez@hcpss.org<mailto:kimberly_e_rodriguez@hcpss.org>
8340 Linda ct. apt.3b
Jessup, Maryland 20794

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111289

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067404 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067404

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:49 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Kristina DeBenedetti <kristina_debenedetti@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:35 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?*

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Kristina DeBenedetti
Patapsco Middle School PE Teacher

Kristina DeBenedetti
kristina_debenedetti@hcpss.org<mailto:kristina_debenedetti@hcpss.org>
3792 Bonnybridge Place
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112119

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:00 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067434 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067434

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:59:17 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: La Dawn Jackson-Shields <la_dawn_jackson-shields@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:39 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

La Dawn Jackson-Shields
la_dawn_jackson-shields@hcpss.org<mailto:la_dawn_jackson-shields@hcpss.org>
5722 Thunder Hill Road
Columbia, Maryland 21045

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112673

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:12 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067446 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067446

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:11:02 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Laura Cometa <laura_cometa@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:43 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Laura Cometa
laura_cometa@hcpss.org<mailto:laura_cometa@hcpss.org>
11626 Sun Circle Way
Columbia, Maryland 21044

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112874

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067418 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067418

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:38:04 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Lauren Fischetti <lauren_fischetti@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:37 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Lauren Fischetti
lauren_fischetti@hcpss.org<mailto:lauren_fischetti@hcpss.org>
10753 Glen Hannah Drive
Laurel, Maryland 20723

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112208

From: Lauren Owoc <llauren.caldwell@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 2:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore the HCPSS Budget - Keep Our Teachers Teaching!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to you today as a concerned resident, taxpayer, and parent to three, to urge you to restore a minimum of \$29.2 million to the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) budget.

As I understand, this \$29.2 million is the bare minimum required to simply maintain the current staffing levels and essential resources that HCPSS presently has.

If HCPSS does not receive this crucial funding, the consequences for our students and educators will be severe and detrimental:

- **Class sizes will increase**, impacting the quality of instruction and individual attention students receive.
- **Valuable teacher and paraeducator positions will be cut**, leading to a loss of experienced educators and support staff.
- **Gifted and Talented (GT) teachers will be cut from elementary schools**, diminishing opportunities for advanced learners.
- **Media specialists and other vital specialists will be cut**, reducing access to essential learning resources and support services.
- **Some strings programs will be cut**, limiting early exposure to arts education.
- And potentially more unlisted cuts.

Our teachers are the backbone of our education system. The best way to appreciate them is to ensure they can continue their invaluable work of educating our children. Investing in our schools is an investment in our community's future.

Please prioritize the needs of our students and educators by restoring the necessary funding to the HCPSS budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Lauren Owoc
Owen Brown Resident

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:25 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067546 – opened and unassigned



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067546

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:24:24 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Laurie Buckland <laurie_buckland@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:28 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Laurie Buckland
laurie_buckland@hcpss.org<mailto:laurie_buckland@hcpss.org>
305 Swaying Oak Court
Severna Park, Maryland 21146

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6113235

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067465 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067465

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:30 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Lee Tanis <lee_tanis@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:47 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Lee Tanis
lee_tanis@hcpss.org<mailto:lee_tanis@hcpss.org>
904 Longbow Road
Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112937

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:02 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067438 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067438

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:01:51 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Lesa Helms <lesa_helms@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:40 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Lesa Helms

Lesa Helms
lesa_helms@hcpss.org<mailto:lesa_helms@hcpss.org>
943 Oakdale Circle
Millersville, Maryland 21108

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112731

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:00 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067436 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067436

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:59:18 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Leslie Deibler <leslie_deibler@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:39 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget Questions to Consider

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now, HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. However, if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much will you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? If you continue to cut 200+ positions each year, in the years to come, will there be any staff to teach our children. Who will educate our children of the future? Shouldn't our students receive enriching experiences and a multitude of program opportunities, like 3rd grade strings and G&T?

If you can't, or won't answer the above questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve!!

Thank you,

Leslie Deibler
leslie_deibler@hcpss.org<mailto:leslie_deibler@hcpss.org>
1609 Gibbons Court
Point of Rocks, Maryland 21777

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112676

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067459 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067459

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:26 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Linda Tsai <linda_tsai@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:47 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Plea from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Really, we want our country to be great again, but how can it be without

students having the education they deserve and need to be competitive?

It is not easy to do your job, but it is more difficult for us when educators are getting burned out and leaving the system. Students are being left behind without getting the instructions and support they need every day!

WE need your help - restore our school funding. Fund the school system because it is the RIGHT thing to do. Keep your teachers and make HOCO one of the best counties in the country. Let us do our jobs with your full support.

Thank you,

Linda Tsai
linda_tsai@hcpss.org<mailto:linda_tsai@hcpss.org>
4134 Brittany Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112933

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067359 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067359

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:56:44 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Lisa Cramer <lisa_cramer@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:30 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Lisa Cramer
lisa_cramer@hcpss.org<mailto:lisa_cramer@hcpss.org>
8705 Cardinal Forest Circle
Laurel, Maryland 20723

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111228

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:19 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067472 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067472

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:18:23 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Lisa Rounds <lisa_rounds@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:50 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

Would your children be impacted by increased class sizes?
Do you know how many teachers are working a second job just to be able to afford their mortgage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Lisa Rounds
lisa_rounds@hcpss.org<mailto:lisa_rounds@hcpss.org>
10814 Dewey Way E
New Market, Maryland 21774

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6113003

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067402 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067402

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:48 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Lisa Toohey <lisa_toohey@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:35 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Lisa Toohey

Lisa Toohey
lisa_toohey@hcpss.org<mailto:lisa_toohey@hcpss.org>
10914 MD-108
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112147

From: lisha Luo <lishahuan922@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore Full Funding to HCPSS in FY26

[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'm writing as a concerned parent to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operating Budget. Additional funding may be available by examining investment income more carefully.

HCPSS has faced years of underfunding. This year, the system needs \$29.2 million just to maintain current services. Without it, we'll see larger class sizes, fewer programs, and staff layoffs — all of which hurt our students.

It's unacceptable that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a core service and should be protected, not sacrificed. The percentage of Howard County Public Schools System share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept up with historic norms and inflation.

My child's school is already stretched thin. We can't afford more cuts.

Please prioritize students and restore funding to HCPSS.

Thank you,

Lisha Zhou
Centennial Lane Elementary School
District 5

From: Lori Ann Suffredini <lorisuffredini@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:19 AM
To: CouncilMail; Budget Testimony; Yungmann, David; CouncilDistrict5@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Proposed program cuts due to HCPSS Operating Budget not being fully funded

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

Dear Mr. Yungmann and the Howard County Council,

I am aware that the HCPSS Operating Budget was not fully funded, and now there are multiple proposed program cuts that will directly affect my children and the other children who attend HCPSS. First, I am aware that 64.6 teachers are at risk of being cut, which will further increase class sizes. This is absolutely ridiculous and cannot be allowed to happen. My third grade son, who attends Bushy Park Elementary School, **has 29 children in his class**. How is it possible that he can get the excellent education that the HCPSS boasts if his class size is even larger? His classroom is already excessively crowded. There is no more room for more children, and his school is one of the newer elementary schools. There is no way that a teacher can give each student the individualized attention that they need with 29 children per class, let alone > 30 children per class!

Additionally, I understand that 78 paraeducators are at risk from being cut from our elementary schools. These positions are instrumental in giving all children the extra help and attention they need to be successful, from our GT children to those enrolled in special education.

Reducing the high school teacher secretaries will only contribute more to the burnout our teachers are already facing. Please do not remove the support staff that allows our teachers to focus on what they do best- **teaching**.

The elimination of third grade strings would be a huge blow to our public school system. Howard County has the reputation of being one of the best public school systems in the country, and it is in large part due to the presence of special programs like third grade strings. Learning to play a musical instrument at such a young age enhances learning and creativity in so many different ways. Please do not rob our children of this experience.

Finally, the reduction of elementary GT teachers is harmful for all of the children. With fewer kids pulled into GT math in 4th and 5th grades, all math class sizes will increase, and no one will benefit from that.

We moved to Howard County because of the great reputation of the public schools here. In order for HCPSS to keep its excellent reputation, we need the money to support these programs. Please find the funding to fully fund the HCPSS budget. If you don't, you not only risk having people take their kids out of the school system, but you risk losing taxpayers as they will move out of Howard County altogether in search of a county that prioritizes its education system.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lori Suffredini

Anesthesiologist at Howard County Medical Center

Mother of Anthony (age 9), Regina (age 7), Giuliana (age 5) of Bushy Park Elementary School, and Lia (age 3), who will hopefully also attend Bushy Park in the future.

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:41 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067431 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067431

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:40:34 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Lori Custer <lori_custer@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:37 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Lori Custer
lori_custer@hcpss.org<mailto:lori_custer@hcpss.org>
531 Isaac Russell Street
New Market, Maryland 21774

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112277

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067422 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067422

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:38:07 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Lynn Frost <lynn_frost@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:36 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Lynn Frost
lynn_frost@hcpss.org<mailto:lynn_frost@hcpss.org>
7610 Maple Road
Dundalk, Maryland 21222

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112215

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067396 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067396

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:41 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Maria Acuna <maria_acuna@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:33 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Maria Acuna
maria_acuna@hcpss.org<mailto:maria_acuna@hcpss.org>
5673 Columbia Rd 103
Columbia, Maryland 21044

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112113

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067425 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067425

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:38:09 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Maria Morrison <maria_morrison@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:36 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Maria Morrison
maria_morrison@hcpss.org<mailto:maria_morrison@hcpss.org>
601 Norhurst Way
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112220

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067424 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067424

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:38:08 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Marita Franks <marita_franks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:37 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

You vut important positions last year and it is hurting the students and

educators to cut more. I have resigned at the end of the school year because educators are not given enough support. If you cannot fund what the dep of education has approved, what do you think isn't essential and should be cut? The answer is nothing. We need more, not less. More educators will leave and that is not the legacy of HoCo. It used to be so hard to get hired by HoCo because educators stayed. That is no longer the case.

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Marita Franks an educator at VES

Marita Franks
marita_franks@hcpss.org<mailto:marita_franks@hcpss.org>
6484 Grommet Drive
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112217

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067364 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067364

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:56:47 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Mary Goff <mary_goff@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Mary Goff
mary_goff@hcpss.org<mailto:mary_goff@hcpss.org>
3014 Brookwood Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG611231

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:41 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067427 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067427

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:40:28 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Mary Northen <mary_northen@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:37 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Mary Northen

Mary Northen
mary_northen@hcpss.org<mailto:mary_northen@hcpss.org>
204 Rollingfield Rd
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112269

From: mary strassner <marystrassner@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 2:57 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: education budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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

Mr. Ball and County Council Members,

People, including me, move to Howard County because of the school system. We are willing to pay much more for our homes and much more in taxes for our children to benefit from that. You KNOW that increasing class sizes would cause more chaos and less learning. Every child has a different learning style and interest so Music, Art, Theater, Sports, GT, to name a few, are essential to a well rounded student. Some of these programs are the only reason a child might stay in school. Extra programs give students an edge when it comes to college admissions. Counselors and Teachers are life lines for students. They are already burdened with life in the classroom after COVID, don't make it more difficult for them. As a taxpayer, I'd rather pay more than for you to cut the education budget!
Thank you and good luck.

Mary Strassner
4918 Evening Sky Ct.
21043

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:10 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067444 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067444

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:09:10 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Matthew Noon <matt_noon@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:41 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Please identify the specific areas that you feel should be cut.

If you want more students in each class, please say so. If you want student programs cut, please tell us which ones you feel are unnecessary. If you want our spending on technology to be reduced, please explain what expenditures you have deemed to be less than critical.

Thank you,

Matthew Noon
matt_noon@hcpss.org<mailto:matt_noon@hcpss.org>
5364 Smooth Meadow Way
Columbia, Maryland 21044

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112846

From: Matthew Seiger <Matthew_Seiger@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 3:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore Full Funding to HCPSS in FY26

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[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'm writing as a concerned parent and teacher to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operating Budget.

HCPSS has faced years of underfunding. This year, the system needs \$29.2 million just to maintain current services. Without it, we'll see larger class sizes, fewer programs, and staff layoffs — all of which hurt our students.

It's unacceptable that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a core service and should be protected, not sacrificed. The percentage of Howard County Public Schools System share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept up with historic norms and inflation.

As a HCPSS employee of over 12 years, and a product of Howard County schools, it is disheartening to know that our county doesn't value teachers and education for our children.

Please prioritize students and restore funding to HCPSS.

Thank you,
Matt Seiger

Matt Seiger
Fourth Grade Teacher
Fulton Elementary
[410-880-5957](tel:410-880-5957)

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:12 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067450 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067450

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:11:09 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Melissa Barbieri <melissa_barbieri@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:42 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Melissa Barbieri
melissa_barbieri@hcpss.org<mailto:melissa_barbieri@hcpss.org>
8805 Groffs Mill Dr
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112876

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:41 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067426 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067426

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:40:27 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Melissa King <melissa_king@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:37 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Melissa King
melissa_king@hcpss.org<mailto:melissa_king@hcpss.org>
5465 Gloucester Rd
Columbia, Maryland 21044

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112268

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:20 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067483 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067483

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:18:28 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Melissa Kohler <melissa_kohler@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:49 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Melissa Kohler
melissa_kohler@hcpss.org<mailto:melissa_kohler@hcpss.org>
7854 Grassy Garth
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6113022

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:16 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067469 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067469

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:33 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Melissa Martin <melissa_10264@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:48 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Melissa Martin

Melissa Martin
melissa_10264@msn.com<mailto:melissa_10264@msn.com>
3831 Ridge Road
westmister, Maryland 21157

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112943

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067414 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067414

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:57 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Michelle Czarnecki <michelle_czarnecki@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:35 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't or won't answer those questions, we would appreciate wholeheartedly that you would do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Michelle Czarnecki

Michelle Czarnecki
michelle_czarnecki@hcpss.org<mailto:michelle_czarnecki@hcpss.org>
6304 Sunhigh Place
Columbia, Maryland 21045

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112172

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067363 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067363

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:56:46 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Misty Borst Yackshaw <mlborst@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:50 AM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Restore Full Funding to HCPSS in FY26

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

5/6/25

Dear Howard County Council,

I'm writing as a concerned parent to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operating Budget. HCPSS has faced years of underfunding. This year, the system needs

\$29.2 million just to maintain current services. Without it, we'll see larger class sizes, fewer programs, and staff layoffs - all of which hurt our students.

It's unacceptable that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a core service and should be protected, not sacrificed. The percentage of Howard County Public Schools System share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept up with historic norms and inflation.

The quality of the education students receive in Howard County was a main driver in our family moving here ten years ago. We must continue to remain a shining example for the rest of Maryland and for the country. And frankly, especially now, we owe it to our children.

Please prioritize students and restore funding to HCPSS.

Thank you,
Misty Borst Yackshaw
5516 Sleeping Dog Lane
Columbia, MD 21045

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111216

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:19 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067471 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067471

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:18:22 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Molly Miller <molly_miller1@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:48 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Molly Miller
molly_miller1@hcpss.org<mailto:molly_miller1@hcpss.org>
7745 Valley Oak Drive
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112993

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067403 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067403

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:48 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Mykel Robinson-Collins <mykel_robinson-collins@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:35 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Mykel Robinson-Collins
mykel_robinson-collins@hcpss.org<mailto:mykel_robinson-collins@hcpss.org>
6107 Flemington Court
Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112149

From: Nguyen Trinh <nguyen_thi_trinh@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 8:22 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore Full Funding to HCPSS in FY26

[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'm writing as a concerned parent/resident to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operating Budget.

HCPSS has faced years of underfunding. This year, the system needs \$29.2 million just to maintain current services. Without it, we'll see larger class sizes, fewer programs, and staff layoffs — all of which hurt our students.

It's unacceptable that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a core service and should be protected, not sacrificed. The percentage of Howard County Public Schools System share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept up with historic norms and inflation.

My child's school is already stretched thin. We can't afford more cuts.

Please prioritize students and restore funding to HCPSS.

Thank you,
Nguyen Trinh
11501 Crows Nest Road
Clarksville MD 21029

Sent from Nguyen Trinh

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067417 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067417

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:38:03 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Nina Diehl <nina_diehl@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:36 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Nina Diehl
nina_diehl@hcpss.org<mailto:nina_diehl@hcpss.org>
9304 Spring Water Path
Jessup, Maryland 20794

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112201

From: Nina Kamooei <kamooei.nina@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:23 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Shocking Budget Cuts

[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 shocked to hear that the county is cutting millions of dollars from the school budget! The reason we love Howard County is because of the school system, which includes GT courses in elementary schools and amazing, loving teachers. Class size is an important factor, because if it's kept at a reasonable number, teachers have a higher capacity to care for their students.

Education should be our priority in this county (and state and country) because only through a good education can we thwart all of the issues we're seeing in American society, like gun violence and health (physical and mental). Without a good education and supportive school environments, children will have a more difficult time reaching their full potential; they may turn to drugs and violence, or at the minimum, not be able to overcome systemic hurdles that keep them underprivileged. To make this country great again, we should focus on our children and provide them with the most nurturing environment possible. We must take care of the youngest and most impressionable, the most precious portion of our population!

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Nina Kamooei
Mother of a 3rd grader

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067356 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067356

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:56:41 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

-----Original Message-----

From: tigger@teachers.org <tigger@teachers.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:43 AM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Restore Full Funding to HCPSS in FY 26

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

Email County Council councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

Dear Howard County Council,

I'm writing as a concerned educator to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operating Budget.

HCPSS has faced years of underfunding. This year, the system needs \$29.2 million just to maintain current services. Without it, we'll see larger class sizes, fewer programs, and staff layoffs — all of which hurt our students.

It's unacceptable that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a core service and should be protected, not sacrificed. The percentage of Howard County Public Schools System share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept up with historic norms.

As an educator and support staff for 18 years with HCPSS, we have seen cuts for several years. It's very discouraging that we pour our hearts into our job for our students and all we hear is we can't fund the budget. All the cuts do is put more work and stress on us, and we can't give a quality education to our students.

We always hear how important we are, but how long do we truly keep hearing this, when the budget is not fully funded. We are already overworked and under paid. How do expect to hire new staff and keep current staff with these kind of budget cuts.

Please prioritize students and staff and restore funding to HCPSS.

Thank you,
Pamela Riley
8001 Cocan Way
Elkridge, MD 21075

Sent using the mail.com mail app

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG611210

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:41 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067430 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067430

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:40:33 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Pamela Sutkaytis <pamela_sutkaytis@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:38 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Pamela Sutkaytis
pamela_sutkaytis@hcpss.org<mailto:pamela_sutkaytis@hcpss.org>
10903 Beech Creek Dr
Columbia, Maryland 21044

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112272

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067358 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067358

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:56:43 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Patricia Cummings <patricia_cummings@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Patricia Cummings
patricia_cummings@hcpss.org<mailto:patricia_cummings@hcpss.org>
426 Ellwell Court
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111211

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:10 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067440 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067440

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:08:53 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Patricia Neilon <patricia_neilon@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:41 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Patricia Neilon
patricia_neilon@hcpss.org<mailto:patricia_neilon@hcpss.org>
8508 Streambank Way
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112841

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067413 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067413

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:57 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Paule Mireille Ngo Mbai <paule_mireille_ngo_mbai@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:34 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it cannot fill.

County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Paule Mireille Ngo Mbai
paule_mireille_ngo_mbai@hcpss.org<mailto:paule_mireille_ngo_mbai@hcpss.org>
7556 Arundel Woods Drive
Jessup, Maryland 20794

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112173

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067463 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067463

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:29 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Poonam More <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:45 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Poonam More
poonamsmore@gmail.com<mailto:poonamsmore@gmail.com>
2915 burrows ln
Ellicott city, Maryland 21043

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112921

From: Prasanna <pras.venkatesh@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 7:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Requesting to stop any hcpsd budget cuts

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

I am writing to respectfully urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) operating budget and to reconsider any proposed cuts.

Our schools are the heart of our community. Every cut to the HCPSS operating budget directly impacts our students' education, teacher support, classroom resources, special education services, and the overall quality of learning in our county.

Howard County has long been known for its excellence in education — it is one of the reasons families choose to live here. Cutting school funding risks weakening our schools' ability to meet the growing needs of all students, especially at a time when they require more support than ever.

Please prioritize our children and teachers by protecting the HCPSS operating budget. Investing in education is investing in the future success, health, and strength of Howard County.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering the voices of families and community members like mine. I respectfully ask that you fully fund our schools.

Thanks
Prasanna

Howard county resident with 2 school going kids

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067407 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067407

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:53 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Previn Verghese <previn_verghese@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:34 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Previn Verghese

Previn Verghese
previn_verghese@hcpss.org<mailto:previn_verghese@hcpss.org>
6395 Rutherford Ct.
Frederick, Maryland 21703

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112168

From: Qin Zhang <zqcua2013@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 3:30 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore Full Funding to HCPSS in FY26

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[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'm writing as a concerned parent to urge you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System in the FY26 Operating Budget. Additional funding may be available by examining investment income more carefully.

HCPSS has faced years of underfunding. This year, the system needs \$29.2 million just to maintain current services. Without it, we'll see larger class sizes, fewer programs, and staff layoffs — all of which hurt our students.

It's unacceptable that our schools are the first to face cuts when budgets tighten. Education is a core service and should be protected, not sacrificed. The percentage of Howard County Public Schools System share of the recurring General Fund Revenue has not kept up with historic norms and inflation.

My child's school is already stretched thin. We can't afford more cuts.

Please prioritize students and restore funding to HCPSS.

Thank you

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067391 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067391

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:37 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Randi Trzesinski <randi_trzesinski@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:33 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Randi Trzesinski
randi_trzesinski@hcpss.org<mailto:randi_trzesinski@hcpss.org>
2440 Quilting Bee Rd
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112138

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067416 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067416

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:38:02 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Rebecca Sanches <rebecca_sanches@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:36 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Rebecca Sanches
rebecca_sanches@hcpss.org<mailto:rebecca_sanches@hcpss.org>
10664 High Beam Ct
Columbia, Maryland 21044

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112199

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067382 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067382

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:59:03 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Renisha Andrews <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:32 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Renisha Andrews
renisha_andrews@hotmail.com<mailto:renisha_andrews@hotmail.com>
4726 Wakefield RD
Baltimore City, Maryland 21216

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111287

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:19 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067480 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067480

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:18:27 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Richard Cumby <richard_cumby@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:55 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Richard Cumby
richard_cumby@hcpss.org<mailto:richard_cumby@hcpss.org>
4049 Rinehart Rd
Westminster, Maryland 21158

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6113004

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067405 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067405

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:51 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Russell Long <russell_long@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:33 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Quick Question

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

If you were in our shoes, what would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

These questions aren't easy to answer are they?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Russell Long
russell_long@hcpss.org<mailto:russell_long@hcpss.org>
456 Dominique Ct
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112155

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067412 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067412

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:56 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Samantha Hunt <samantha_hunt@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:34 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Our students and educators deserve better. This budget deficit is extremely

disappointing.

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Sam Hunt
WLMS Art Educator

Samantha Hunt
samantha_hunt@hcpss.org<mailto:samantha_hunt@hcpss.org>
6166 Regent Park Road
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112158

From: Sandra Mazzolla <sandramjacobs@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:07 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS budget

[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 is my request to the Howard County Council to please restore the minimum \$29.2 million to the HCPSS budget needed to maintain the staff and resources that HCPSS has right now that will prevent teacher's, including GT teachers, media, other specialists, and paraeducators jobs to be cut.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sandra Mazzolla

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S23+ 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067367 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067367

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:56:48 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Sandra Myers <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Sandra Myers
sandymyers@gmail.com<mailto:sandymyers@gmail.com>
4744 Hallowed Stream
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111221

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:08 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067390 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067390

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:07:37 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Sara Toler <sara_toler@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:33 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Sara Toler
sara_toler@hcpss.org<mailto:sara_toler@hcpss.org>
8942 Blade green lane
Columbia, Maryland 21045

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111379

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067379 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067379

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:59:02 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Shannon Majoros <shannon_majoros@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:32 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,
Shannon Majoros MS, BCBA, LBA, NBCT
AES RECC ITL Special Educator

Shannon Majoros
shannon_majoros@hcpss.org<mailto:shannon_majoros@hcpss.org>
11959 Gold Needle Way
Columbia, Maryland 21044

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG611271

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067392 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067392

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:38 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Shayna Glicksman <shayna_glicksman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:33 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Shayna Glicksman
shayna_glicksman@hcpss.org<mailto:shayna_glicksman@hcpss.org>
8897 Stonebrook Ln
Columbia, Maryland 21046

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112141

From: Shilpa Desai Cooper <sdesai12@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fully Fund the HCPSS FY26 Operating Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[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

My name is Shilpa Cooper, and I am a parent from Pointers Run Elementary. I am writing to urge full funding for the Howard County Public School System's (HCPSS) FY26 budget request. Our schools need these resources to support students, educators, and vital programs.

The proposed budget prioritizes staff retention, special education, and student safety—areas critical to student success. Key priorities are needed [specific needs, e.g., athletic trainers, special education support, sufficient staffing]. Without these investments, our students will not receive the education and support they deserve.

I appreciate your leadership and commitment to education. I urge you to fully fund this budget and advocate for the resources necessary to support all HCPSS students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Shilpa Cooper

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:19 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067485 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067485

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:18:29 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Sonia D'Urbano <sonia_durbano@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:48 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

I lived last Spring wondering if I would have a job come July 1, 2024. I was one of the lucky ones that was picked up because a colleague retired; I considered it a blessing. How many of us will have to live this Spring just like I did last Spring?

Thank you,
Sonia D'Urbano

Sonia D'Urbano
sonia_durbano@hcpss.org<mailto:sonia_durbano@hcpss.org>
2322 Mayberry Road
Westminster, Maryland 21158

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6113008

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067406 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067406

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:52 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Stacey Schroeder <stacey_schroeder@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:34 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Stacey Schroeder
stacey_schroeder@hcpss.org<mailto:stacey_schroeder@hcpss.org>
2234 Merion Pond
Woodstock, Maryland 21163

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112156

From: Stella Averbukh <stella.averbukh@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:05 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Prioritize Our Schools — Restore Full Funding to HCPSS

[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 as a concerned parent in Howard County to urge you to restore full funding to the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) in the FY26 Operating Budget.

Over the past several years, HCPSS has been consistently underfunded. To maintain even a same-services budget this year, the school system needs at least \$80.6 million. Without this funding, our community will face larger class sizes, reductions in essential programs, and layoffs of valued staff -- all of which directly impact the quality of education for our students. It is troubling that when financial pressures arise, it is our schools that are first in line for service reductions. The school system should not be leading the way in cuts. Education is a core public service — not a luxury item to be scaled back.

Moreover, recent investment reports suggest the county will have at least \$10 million more in available funds than currently projected. Instead of shifting "extra" money into PAYGO projects, we should prioritize critical services like education. Our students, teachers, and schools should not be asked to sacrifice while funding is diverted elsewhere.

As a parent of a daughter in HCPSS, I see firsthand how thin resources already are. We cannot afford to cut any deeper.

Howard County's reputation for excellence is built on its schools. I urge you to prioritize our students and schools by restoring the necessary funding to HCPSS.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Stella Averbukh

4534 Taraley Court, MD 21042

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:02 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067386 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067386

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:00:27 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Stephanie Sandlin <stephanie_sandlin@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:32 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

What would you cut from HCPSS?

It's easy to cut school funding and leave the hard choices to the Board of Education. But if you think HCPSS should have no additional funding this year, then how much would you raise class size? Which programs would you eliminate? How many staff should be laid off? Should you freeze pay increases for educators during a teacher shortage?

If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Stephanie Sandlin
stephanie_sandlin@hcpss.org<mailto:stephanie_sandlin@hcpss.org>
1509 Martock Lane
Hanover, Maryland 21029

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6111327

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067462 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067462

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 10:14:28 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Stephanie Tam <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:48 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Stephanie Tam
asktam2014@gmail.com<mailto:asktam2014@gmail.com>
10404 Snowden Rd
Montpelier, Maryland 20708

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112936

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067368 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067368

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:56:48 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Steven Parker <steven_parker@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

cannot fill. County Executive Ball sent educators a list of reasons why he can't fully fund schools, but I still have one question for him and for the County Council:

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Steven Parker
steven_parker@hcpss.org<mailto:steven_parker@hcpss.org>
2550 Kensington Gardens
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG611236

From: Sunnie Kim <sunniejang@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Urgent: Restore School Funding in FY26 Budget

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

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing as a Howard County resident, taxpayer, and—most importantly—a parent of a child with disabilities. I am deeply alarmed by the proposed budget cuts that would result in the layoffs of special educators and paraeducators who serve our most vulnerable students.

These professionals are not just part of the school staff—they are essential to my child’s success and well-being. They provide individualized support, foster inclusion, and ensure that students with disabilities can access the education they are entitled to. Eliminating these positions would cause real harm to children like mine, who rely on consistent, skilled support to learn, grow, and participate in their school community.

Families like mine already face daily challenges navigating special education. Stripping away these vital supports would make it even harder for our children to receive a fair and appropriate education. It sends the message that their needs are not a priority.

We contribute significantly through property taxes, with the expectation that our investment will support all students. I urge you to restore the funding for HCPSS in the FY26 budget and to stand up for equity, inclusion, and the dignity of every student in Howard County.

Sincerely,
Lydia Sunnie Kim, Ed.D.
Ellicott City, 21042

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067362 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067362

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 08:56:46 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Taylor Ouimette <taylor_ouimette@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Taylor Ouimette
taylor_ouimette@hcpss.org<mailto:taylor_ouimette@hcpss.org>
38 Maple Dr
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG611215

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067394 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067394

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:39 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Thomas Brandel <thomas_brandel@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:33 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Tom Brandel

Thomas Brandel
thomas_brandel@hcpss.org<mailto:thomas_brandel@hcpss.org>
2107 Stillwater Court
Eldersburg, Maryland 21784

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112142

From: Leslie Stone <lesliestone5810@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Dear Council Members,

I urge you to fully fund the HCPSS budget. Our schools cannot afford further cuts. Reductions in essential programs—such as G/T instruction—will have lasting, damaging effects on students and the community.

Strong schools are the backbone of Howard County’s reputation and directly impact home values and property taxes. We have already seen the county’s once-exceptional reputation slipping. Continued cuts will only accelerate this decline.

Please prioritize our children, educators, and future. Find the funding. Fully support HCPSS.

Thank you,

Timothy and Leslie Stone

District 5

From: snap@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Smith, Brenda; Anderson, Isaiah; Gelwicks, Colette; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0067411 – opened and unassigned

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Case

Short Description: Support for HCPSS Operating Budget

Case Number: CS0067411

Case Opened: 05-07-2025

Constituent:

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

05-07-2025 09:36:55 AM EDT - Christiana Rigby Additional comments

From: Zelda Eltzroth <zelda_eltzroth@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:35 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: One quick question from a HoCo educator

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

County Councilperson Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council members,

Right now HCPSS is staring down a \$29 million hole in its budget that it

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If you can't, or won't answer those questions, then do the right thing and restore the funding that HCPSS students and educators deserve.

Thank you,

Zelda Eltzroth
zelda_eltzroth@hcpss.org<mailto:zelda_eltzroth@hcpss.org>
7925 Red Barn Way
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG6112157