

**County Executive  
of  
Howard County, Maryland**

**Executive Order: 2023-03  
Date: May 17, 2023  
Subject: Blueprint Resources  
Planning Workgroup**

WHEREAS, Howard County Government is fully committed to the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future (Blueprint), passed in 2021, to enhance the excellence of our public education system; and

WHEREAS, the Blueprint calls for transformative changes to public education in the State of Maryland and requires coordinated planning between the County Executive, the County Council, and the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, in FY2023, the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) reached a \$1.03 billion budget which contained the largest increase in public education funding at the time with a County investment of \$40 million over Maintenance of Effort (MOE); and

WHEREAS, in FY2024, Howard County Government fully funded HCPSS’s capital request for the second year in a row; and

WHEREAS, in FY2024, the County Executive designated an additional \$35 million in State pass-through funding for the renovations of the Applied Research Laboratory and the Faulkner Ridge Pre-K Center; and

WHEREAS, the FY2024 proposed budget contains \$720.3 million in recurring County funding to HCPSS, which is the largest increase in local funding to HCPSS in Howard County’s history; and

WHEREAS, the FY2024 proposed County and State budget for HCPSS is expected to reach \$1.1 billion, with County funding exceeding MOE by \$71.6 million; and

WHEREAS, cumulatively, over the past five years, the County has provided nearly \$130 million in funding above MOE; and

WHEREAS, HCPSS received a total of \$123.2 million in state and federal COVID-19 relief funds, including more than \$67 million in federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding set to expire in September 2024; and

WHEREAS, for FY2025, the projected state increase to HCPSS in Foundation Aid is \$11 million, \$18 million in Comparable Wage Index, and \$5.1 million for Full Day Pre-k expansion; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish responsible, coordinated, and transparent fiscal priorities to successfully implement the Blueprint; and

WHEREAS, Howard County benefits from smart resource allocation and responsible use of taxpayer dollars to fund public education initiatives, and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future will encompass multiple years and must take into account any additional changes to the plan and the availability of county, state, and federal resources; and

WHEREAS, the FY2024 Spending Affordability Advisory Committee recommended overarching long-term budget planning, and the education budget is a major proportion of the County budget; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated multi-agency workgroup will break down siloes and establish a coordinated strategy to fully implement the Blueprint for Maryland's Future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED that the Blueprint Resources Planning Workgroup is established. The duties and responsibilities of the Workgroup are as follows:

1. The Workgroup shall review the statutory funding requirements of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future in each pillar area and identify critical deadlines to meet the key priorities of the plan.
2. The Workgroup shall establish a cost analysis of each pillar for each of the next seven fiscal years beginning in FY2025.
3. The Workgroup shall continue to work with the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Department of Legislative Services to forecast future state aid distributions for the thirteen major aid categories as defined in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.
4. The Workgroup shall work with the Howard County Office of Budget and the Howard County Public School System Budget Office to forecast sustainable local funding estimates for education for the next seven fiscal years beginning in FY2025.
5. The Workgroup shall recommend a funding plan and policy actions that may be needed at the local and state level to implement the Blueprint within the local and state budget estimates presented to the Workgroup.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the Workgroup shall try to meet at least monthly, beginning in the first quarter of FY2024.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the Workgroup shall provide a written report to the County Executive, County Council, and Board of Education on February 1, 2024. Additionally, the Workgroup shall meet with the Spending Affordability Committee in January 2024 and shall offer to meet at a regular joint meeting of the County Council and Board of Education.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the Workgroup shall consist of the following members:

1. Director of Howard County Budget Office, or the Director's designee;

2. Director of the Howard County Department of Finance, or the Director's designee;
3. Director of Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, or the Director's designee;
4. Administrator of Howard County Office of Workforce Development, or the Director's designee;
5. President of Howard Community College, or the President's designee;
6. President of Howard County Library System, or the President's designee;
7. Superintendent of Howard County Public School System, or the Superintendent's designee;
8. Two members recommended by the Howard County Board of Education;
9. Two members recommended by the Howard County Council; and
10. Two members recommended by the Howard County State Delegation.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the Senior Advisor for Education and Performance will serve as the County Executive's liaison and a nonvoting staff member for the Workgroup.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the Workgroup shall cease to exist on September 30, 2024 and the terms of all Workgroup members shall expire on September 30, 2024.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Calvin Ball,** as County Executive of Howard County, Maryland have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Howard County to be affixed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.



Calvin Ball  
County Executive

