

For Your Information

Howard County Board of Education Operating Budget Process

The school system's operating budget pays for daily classroom instruction, maintenance, and other educational services. Approximately 74 percent of the financing for the Board of Education's operating budget comes from the county, 25 percent from the state, and the remainder from other sources.

The process of preparing the operating budget begins each fall when school system managers compile budget requests for the next fiscal year. These preliminary requests are reviewed and adjusted by supervisors. Requests are submitted to the school system's Budget Office and are reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools and senior management. After revisions, the Superintendent submits a proposed budget to the Board of Education. After holding a public hearing and several work sessions, the Board of Education approves its proposed budget, which is then submitted to the County Executive. The Executive may recommend reductions to the education request before submitting a proposed budget to the County Council.

The County Council holds hearings and may make changes to the Executive's budget. The Council may reduce any portion of the Executive's budget and may restore funding to the school system budget up to the level originally requested by the Board of Education. The Council approves the school system budget by major category. The Board of Education may move funds within categories only when adopting the budget or during the fiscal year.

Copies of the full operating budget are available through the Public Information Office and at www.hcpss.org

FY 2011 Operating Budget Approval Schedule

For meeting locations check www.hcpss.org

January 7 7:30 p.m.	Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget is presented to the Board of Education and the public.
February 2* 7:00 p.m.	Board of Education holds a public hearing on the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget. Members of the public may provide up to three minutes of oral testimony.
February 4 7:00p.m.	Board of Education holds a public work session on the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget.
February 9 1-5:00 p.m.	Board of Education holds a public work session on the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget.
February 16 7:00 p.m.	Board of Education holds a public work session on the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget.
February 18 1-5:00 p.m.	Board of Education holds a public work session on the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget (if needed).
February 23 9:00 a.m.	Board of Education approves its Operating Budget Request for submission to the County Executive.
Mid-March	Board of Education Operating Budget Request is submitted to the County Executive.
Early April	The County Executive's Proposed Operating Budget, which includes the Board of Education Operating Budget Request, is submitted to the County Council of Howard County.
April/May*	County Council holds a hearing and work sessions on the Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets.
May 20* 7:30 p.m.	Board of Education holds a public hearing and work session on the Operating Budget (subject to change).
Late May	The County Council approves the County Operating and Capital Budgets (which include the Board of Education's Operating and Capital Budgets).
June 1 9:00 a.m.	The Board of Education adopts its Operating Budget as funded by the County Council. (subject to change)

**Opportunity for public testimony*

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