



PGCPS

Quarterly Report

October-December 2024

Q2

***Report produced by the Division of Communications
and Community Engagement***

Dear PGCPs Community,

I am delighted to present our second districtwide quarterly report for the 2024-2025 school year, reflecting the progress and achievements made from October through December 2024. This report highlights our continued dedication to academic excellence, operational improvements, and community engagement across Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS).

In the area of infrastructure, we achieved a major milestone by finalizing the financial close for Phase II of the Blueprint Schools Program, securing favorable terms that will enable the construction of nine new schools. Progress is already underway at four sites, reflecting our commitment to modernizing learning environments. We also advanced sustainability efforts with the launch of the Mullikin Bus Lot microgrid project, paving the way for expanded use of electric school buses and furthering our Climate Action Plan.

This quarter has also marked significant strides in innovation and sustainability. Our district has embraced cutting-edge technology with the introduction of AI pilot programs, which are enhancing teaching and learning experiences for thousands of students and educators. These initiatives, supported by our comprehensive AI Implementation Framework, are transforming education while ensuring safety, equity, and data security.

Our dedication to student success was exemplified through key academic achievements. We celebrated the recognition of six schools with EGATE awards for excellence in gifted education, and more than 200 students earned the prestigious Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) certifications. The launch of our inaugural 'Create & Collaborate' Conference brought students together to explore interdisciplinary learning, while programs such as the Aerospace Engineering and Aviation Technology Program continued to prepare students for future careers in STEM fields.

We remain committed to supporting our staff and educators. This quarter, we welcomed 96 new National Board Certified Teachers, reinforcing our focus on elevating the teaching profession. Additionally, initiatives like the Aspiring Leaders Academy and the Administrative Assistant/Secretaries Academy are providing valuable professional development opportunities, ensuring that our workforce is equipped to meet the evolving needs of our students.

In the realm of health and wellness, the Office of School Health secured a \$100,000 grant to expand school-based health centers, improving access to essential services for students and families. We also strengthened our support for vulnerable students through the McKinney-Vento Program, providing critical resources to those experiencing homelessness.

As we continue to make strides in enrollment efficiency, transportation optimization, and sustainability, we are reminded that our achievements are the result of collaborative efforts. I am inspired by the collective dedication of our students, staff, families, and community partners, and I look forward to sharing more successes in the months to come.

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to our mission of delivering outstanding educational opportunities for every student.

Warm regards,



Millard House II
Superintendent
Prince George's County Public Schools



What Guides Our Work?

For the 2024-25 school year, PGCPs focus areas under the Transformation 2026 Strategic Plan include:

Focus Area 1: Accelerating Achievement in Mathematics

Focus Area 2: Enhancing Social Emotional Learning & Mental Health

Focus Area 3: Improving Culture & Climate

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future encompasses five focus areas including:

Pillar 1: Early Childhood Education

Pillar 2: High Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders

Pillar 3: College and Career Readiness

Pillar 4: More Resources for all Students to be Successful

Pillar 5: Governance and Accountability



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DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Synergy Enhances Family Engagement

More than 64,000 parents and guardians have activated accounts in the Synergy student information system, marking significant progress! To increase that number, a campaign to boost ParentVUE account activations is underway. ParentVUE provides real-time access to student information, including grades, schedules, and transportation updates, empowering parents to stay engaged in their children's education.

AI Pilot Programs Enhance Education and Operations

PGCPS is leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) through several innovative pilot programs aimed at enhancing education and operations. Key initiatives include Khanmigo, an AI-powered teaching assistant available to approximately 13,000 students; Adobe Firefly, used in creative arts courses; and Brisk AI, which supports a cohort of 200 educators.

Additional pilots include IBM Watson Chatbot for automated customer service and enterprise licenses for Gemini for Education Premium and Microsoft 365 Copilot. Since the start of the school year, more than 500 teachers have completed AI-related training, with more sessions planned to ensure effective and equitable integration of AI across the district. These efforts are guided by an AI Implementation Framework throughout PGCPS that focuses on safety, equity, innovation, intentionality and data security.



DIVISION OF OPERATIONS

Financial Close Achieved for Blueprint Phase II Schools

PGCPS successfully finalized financial close for Phase II of the Blueprint Schools Program. The district secured an Annual Availability Payment of \$64.3 million, significantly lower than the forecasted \$70 million, with no escalation over 30 years. This achievement followed a highly successful bond marketing process, which garnered over three times the anticipated subscription rate, resulting in favorable financing terms. Construction has begun at four of the nine planned sites, advancing the district's commitment to modernizing school infrastructure.

Progress on Central Administration Consolidation

The first two phases of the Central Office Administration Building project, aimed at consolidating 18 administrative locations, are complete. Guided by recommendations from JLL and Perkins & Will, the district performed extensive facility analyses and surveys to determine space needs and optimize operations. This effort has the potential to lead to substantial cost savings, align with the Comprehensive Capital Improvement Program, and establish a more streamlined administrative presence.

Mullikin Bus Lot Microgrid Underway

PGCPS has initiated the design and permitting process for a microgrid at the Mullikin Bus Lot. The microgrid will support the charging of up to 50 electric school buses and provide energy to depot structures. Currently, the district operates 21 electric buses, with limited charging infrastructure allowing only 10 to be used regularly. This project will enable the district to fully operate 50 electric buses by 2026, advancing sustainability goals and reducing reliance on diesel fuel.

Showcasing Sustainability at Ellen Ochoa Middle School

In alignment with the district's Climate Action Plan, PGCPS hosted a media event at the newly opened net zero Ellen Ochoa Middle School. The school features geothermal heating, solar panels, and other sustainable technologies. Additionally, the district signed a Power Purchase Agreement for rooftop solar installations at six P3 schools, scheduled for summer 2025. Collaboration with Prince George's County Government is also underway for a Ground Solar Array Project.



Expanding Climate Awareness and Career Development

The district launched its first Climate Ambassadors training in collaboration with Eco-America, focusing on climate basics and professional development credits. More than 300 participants, including teachers, students, and staff, engaged in this training. The district will host a second session on environmental justice in the new year. Additionally, the district is partnering with the Prince George's County Department of Environment to establish a career development program, offering hands-on training and paid internships in natural resource sciences for Career and Technical Education students.



October 18, 2024 marked a historic milestone, as the final steel beam was placed on the new Suitland High School campus.

Expanding Renewable Transportation with EPA Support

PGCPS was awarded EPA Clean Heavy Duty Vehicle Grant funding to acquire four additional electric school buses, bringing the total to 25. Efforts are ongoing to develop the necessary charging infrastructure, supported by pilot microgrid projects. The district has also applied for a \$20 million EPA Community Change Grant in partnership with CASA of Maryland and the County Department of Environment to further enhance electrification initiatives.

Optimizing Student Transportation Services

Transportation efficiency has been improved through strategic measures including consolidating bus stops, aligning bell schedules, and conducting walk zone audits. These efforts have increased seat utilization from 52.9% to 65.4% and reduced the number of unique bus stops by 1,651. Flexible solutions for McKinney-Vento and special needs students have ensured equitable access, while plans for electric bus infrastructure support sustainability goals. Currently, 85,000 students benefit from these services.

More Local Produce for School Cafeterias

The Food and Nutrition Services Department partnered with Moon Valley Farms through the state department of education Local Food for Schools Grant to source fresh, local produce for schools. This reduces the carbon footprint of food transportation and supports historically underserved farmers. Additionally, the department received \$160,000 through the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, to provide a diverse selection of produce to all schools.

Seasonal HVAC Transition Completed Across Schools

PGCPS successfully transitioned over 200 schools and facilities from air conditioning to heating systems between October 10 and November 4, 2024. Any major issues encountered during the process were addressed immediately, ensuring readiness for winter operations by the November 5 deadline.

Radon Testing and Maintenance Planning

Radon testing has been completed across 70 schools, with results posted publicly on each school's website. A remediation plan is in development for locations exceeding EPA's recommended levels. Building Services also submitted the FY 2025 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan, outlining strategies to maximize efficiency, minimize disruptions, and enhance preventative maintenance.

Preparing for Winter Weather Emergencies

The district's annual snow removal operations dry run ensured readiness for winter weather. Preparations included equipment testing and repairs, driver training, and site assessments to identify potential hazards. The salt dome was filled to capacity, and 60 plows and spreaders were prepared to ensure uninterrupted operations during snow events.



DIVISION OF ACADEMICS

Judy Center Early Learning Hubs Engage Children in School Readiness Programs

The Judy Center Early Learning Hubs support families in areas surrounding Bradbury Heights, Carmody Hills, Cool Spring, Hillcrest Heights, Oxon Hill and Rosa L. Parks elementary schools. This year, Cool Spring celebrates its 25th anniversary, while a new hub has been launched at Oxon Hill Elementary. Currently, 412 children, ages birth to 4, are enrolled across these centers. Between September and December, the Judy Centers held approximately 105 playgroups, providing opportunities for parents and children to engage in interactive activities that promote school readiness. These activities focus on literacy, motor skills and social-emotional development. Families also receive take-home materials, snacks and parenting resources, while connecting with community partners such as the Prince George's County Memorial Library System.

Improving Instructional Systems

The Department of Instructional Support has made significant improvements in managing textbooks, summer programs, and the course catalog. A new textbook budgeting application has been implemented, allowing instructional supervisors and budget staff to collaborate more efficiently on textbook adoption. In addition, the

summer programs planning system has been enhanced, helping PGCPs staff manage registration, budgets, staffing, and payroll more effectively. The Course Catalog Management System has also been updated to streamline data submission for the Maryland Course Catalog and high school graduation requirements. This year, 58 courses were identified for adoption in SY 2025-2026, while the course catalog now includes 2,400 courses. Additionally, the department supported 10 PGCPs offices in summer program management.

Sunfish & Students Program Enters Its 10th Year

The Sunfish & Students program, a partnership between the Department of Specialty Programs and the Arts and the William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center, is celebrating its 10th year! This year, third-grade students received 1,000 fish, distributed to 55 schools, and studied fish and water quality, gaining hands-on experience in environmental science and conservation. Since its launch, approximately 15,000 students have participated in the program, which is a collaboration with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and local parks.

Students Earn French Language Diplomas

In December, more than 200 students received the Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF), an internationally recognized French language proficiency certification. Among them, 17 students earned the B1 diploma, meeting the Maryland State Seal of Biliteracy requirement, and two students earned the B2 diploma, qualifying them for French universities.

Cesar Chavez Dual Spanish Immersion Program Recognized

The Cesar Chavez Dual Spanish Immersion Program was honored in November as the first PGCPs International Spanish Academy, a prestigious designation by the Ministry of Education of Spain. It was one of only eight schools in the U.S. and Canada to receive this honor, recognizing its high-quality bilingual education and commitment to fostering global competencies.

Science Center Welcomes Students Back for In-Person Field Trips

In November, the Howard B. Owens Science Center (HBOSC) resumed in-person field trips for the first time since March 2020. Students from Catherine T. Reed Elementary, Robert Goddard Montessori, and DuVal High School were the first to participate in hands-on STEM activities such as robotics, rocket launches, and forensic science! HBOSC also held its annual Fall Family Science Night, attracting a record 417 participants. The event featured planetarium shows, energy kits from PEPCO, and interactive science modules focusing on electromagnetism and fingerprinting.

Leading the State in Talented & Gifted Education

PGCPs celebrated six schools earning the Enhancing Gifted and Advanced Thinking Education (EGATE) recognition for 2024. These schools include Accokeek Academy, Walker Mill Middle, Benjamin Tasker Middle, Glenarden Woods Elementary, Heather Hills Elementary, and Valley View Elementary. PGCPs now leads the state with a total of 46 EGATE awards since 2009.

Inaugural 'Create & Collaborate' Conference

In December, the first Create & Collaborate Conference brought 200 students together for a unique interdisciplinary learning experience. Participants engaged in activities such as micro-podcasting, animation, and technological making, collaborating across schools to tackle real-world challenges.

Aerospace Engineering and Aviation Technology Program Turns 10!

The Aerospace Engineering and Aviation Technology Program at DuVal High School celebrated its 10th anniversary! This rigorous four-year program provides students with college-level STEM experiences, focusing on aerospace and aviation-related fields. The program emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and real-world applications, preparing students for successful careers in STEM.

AP Capstone Honors

Eleven students earned the AP Capstone Diploma™ in 2024. This prestigious program, developed by the College Board, challenges students with advanced coursework in research and seminars, providing them with the skills and experience needed for college success.

PGCPs Specialty Programs Showcase

On November 7, 2024, more than 2,000 attendees got an up close look at the district's PreK - Grade 12 specialty programs, including Immersion Programs, Talented and Gifted (TAG), IB, STEM, and Career and Technical Education (CTE). The event highlighted PGCPs' commitment to offering innovative educational experiences for all students.

Future Educators Thrive in EdRising Programs and Activities

EdRising, a national organization dedicated to developing future educators, has experienced significant growth in PGCPs student membership! Students are actively engaged in various school chapters, with increasing interest in pursuing careers in education. This involvement reflects the growing commitment to fostering the next generation of educators through competitions and hands-on experiences.





DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

PGCPS Welcomes New National Board Certified Teachers

The recent addition of 96 new National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) underscores the district's ongoing commitment to elevating educator effectiveness and improving student outcomes. This brings the district's total to 735 NBCTs, positioning PGCPS as a leader in professional development and instructional excellence.

National Board Certification is widely regarded as the gold standard for teacher development, signaling a teacher's mastery in subject knowledge, pedagogical skills, and dedication to student success. Research shows that students taught by NBCTs typically achieve higher academic performance, a direct reflection of the expertise and dedication these educators bring to their classrooms. Beyond enhancing student success, NBCTs often step into leadership roles, mentoring peers and driving instructional improvements across their schools.

The district's focus on fostering such professional growth elevates its reputation as an educational leader, attracting top-tier talent and strengthening community trust. A pinning ceremony for newly certified and renewing educators will take place in March to celebrate their dedication to the highest standards of teaching and learning.

Aspiring Leaders Academy

The Aspiring Leaders Academy, running from October to June, is designed to cultivate the leadership skills of 45 teacher leaders, providing them with the tools to enhance student achievement. Participants engage in a comprehensive program that includes core learning classes, professional learning communities (PLCs), and problem-solving think tanks. They also benefit from bi-weekly coaching sessions with an NAESP Principal Mentor, quarterly Master Classes, and school learning lab visits for hands-on learning. The academy's capstone project, focused on developing SMART goal-based action plans, allows teachers to apply what they've learned to real-world classroom scenarios. This program aligns with the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSEL) and supports Pillar 2 of the Maryland Blueprint for Excellence. Success will be evaluated through tracking teacher retention and leadership advancement, assessing student achievement trends in participating classrooms, and collecting feedback from participants and mentors. Data from these measures will guide future refinements and demonstrate the program's alignment with district goals.

Administrative Assistant/ Secretaries Academy

The Office of Professional Learning and Leadership launched the fourth year of the Administrative Assistant and Secretary Academy across PGCPS. This program equips school support staff with essential skills, combining practical training, networking, and professional development. This year, 20 participants are enrolled. By investing in administrative training, the district enhances support staff effectiveness, allowing school leaders to focus on strategic goals such as student achievement and staff development.

DIVISION OF SCHOOLS

Fall Interscholastic Athletics Achievements

PGCPS continues to shine in interscholastic athletics with several standout performances! The Eleanor Roosevelt High School boys' cross country team set a new record while clinching the fall 2024 county championship, while the Charles H. Flowers High School girls' team also secured the title.

On the state level, cross country athletes excelled, with Kieran White from Parkdale finishing second at the state championship, and Jaleb Saunders from Roosevelt earning third place. In football, three high schools including Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr., Charles H. Flowers, and Frederick Douglass made it to the state semifinals, with Wise securing the 4A state runner-up title. In recognition of outstanding coaching, Roosevelt coach Thomas Green and Parkdale High School coach Stan Hall were honored as Washington Commanders Coaches of the Week in weeks 5 and 6, respectively.

Office of School Health Awarded \$100,000 Grant

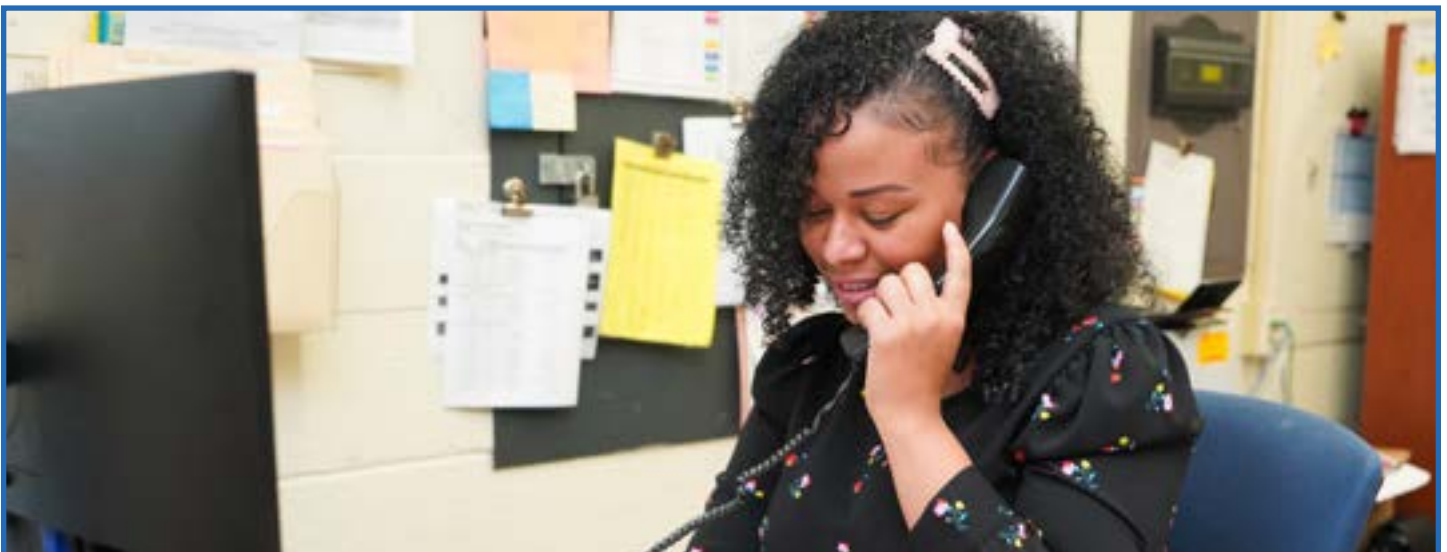
The Office of School Health has been awarded a \$100,000 planning grant from the Maryland Department of Health, in partnership with United Way, to support the opening of 10 new School-Based Health Centers across the district. This initiative will engage families, students, and stakeholders to prioritize healthcare access and ensure resources are strategically placed to meet student needs. By conducting a comprehensive community needs assessment, the district aims to provide equitable healthcare solutions to support student wellness and success, demonstrating PGCPS's commitment to community-centered, strategic partnerships.

Resources for Students Facing Housing Challenges

Through the McKinney-Vento Program (MVP), PGCPS is ensuring that students experiencing homelessness have equal access to education. As of December 2024, MVP identified 1,152 students facing homelessness. The program, in collaboration with Soles for Souls, provided new shoes and socks to 249 students at Suitland Elementary, benefiting from a yearly donation of 1,000 pairs of shoes and socks. In addition, MVP worked with over 60 partners to provide breakfast food and grocery gift cards to 78 families during the winter break. This initiative ensures that vulnerable families can meet basic needs and continue to support their children's education during difficult times.

Improving Section 504 Compliance

PGCPS has achieved an 89% increase in the number of Section 504 plans that are fully compliant with federal regulations, showcasing the district's dedication to providing necessary accommodations for students with disabilities. This success is the result of enhanced training for 504 coordinators, the implementation of streamlined monitoring processes, and improved collaboration between counselors, administrators, and families. These efforts ensure timely and accurate reviews and renewals of 504 plans, helping to create an inclusive educational environment where every student can thrive.



DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Synergy Integration: Streamlining Enrollment and Capacity

To ensure improved Synergy data accuracy and efficiency for parents, students, and staff, the team has processed thousands of online registration applications, corrected address errors, merged duplicate records, and developed clear instructions for office and school use. New registration packets for transitional enrollment have also been developed.

A key priority has been providing comprehensive training and support for Synergy users, including Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries staff, the Student Records Office, and schools with manual enrollment rights. These sessions improve system functionality, data integration, and troubleshooting. The team also actively participates in fit-gap analyses, customization efforts, and next-year rollover configurations to enhance system performance and meet future needs.

State Rated Capacity updates have been another focal area, ensuring schools meet compliance standards and can accommodate growing enrollment demands. Efforts include digitizing CAD floor plans and preparing information for the Interagency Commission on School Construction, especially for new schools like Brandywine Area K-8. The team also works with stakeholders to assess residential development impacts on capacity.

Boundary adjustments, particularly for TAG middle schools, involve collaboration with Transportation and Academics. Though adjustments for SY24-25 were postponed, the team remains committed to revising recommendations. The Boundary Advisory Committee meeting will update and gather feedback on enrollment planning.

Data management and reporting continue to be integral to these initiatives. Accurate geolocation assignments, correction of school of residence data fields, and the generation of enrollment reports ensure compliance and informed decision-making. Support extends to collaboration with transportation and academics staff to address missing participant data and prepare for bid day processes. Support for leadership includes mapping needs and preparing legislative data for the Chief of Staff.

These coordinated efforts aim to modernize enrollment and capacity planning, using Synergy, interdepartmental collaboration, and stakeholder engagement to meet growth and changing needs.



Teacher Career Ladder Plan Approved

The district's Teacher Career Ladder Plan was approved by the state Accountability and Implementation Board in November 2024. This performance-based career ladder will allow educators to advance in their careers without leaving the classroom, offering new leadership opportunities within schools. The program aims to cultivate a new generation of educational leaders with the skills to manage high-performing schools and elevate student success, fostering professional growth at the state, district, and school levels.

Boosting Parent Engagement and Instruction in Title I Schools

PGCPS is making strides to strengthen parent and family engagement, improve teaching methods, and bridge achievement gaps in Title I schools. Through Title I funding, 154 parent and family engagement sessions have been held across 78 schools, fostering stronger home-school partnerships that support student success. Additionally, 542 staff members participated in professional development workshops aimed at enhancing instructional practices.

Driving School Improvement: Area 3's Success Story

Improvement Specialists in the Office of Monitoring and Accountability work closely with school teams to enhance the goal-setting process by updating the School Performance Plan platform to be more user-friendly for documenting progress and implementation. Specialists at each level meet regularly with schools to brainstorm effective change ideas, monitor progress, and reflect on the success of improvement strategies.

These collaborative efforts are helping schools refine their practices, set measurable goals, and drive student success through data-informed decision-making.

A strong partnership with Area Offices, especially Area 3, has been key to the success of school improvement plans. Area 3 leadership's engagement in high school improvement teams has been instrumental in driving progress as evidenced by significant strides in the school improvement process.

Area 3's STAT days have been pivotal in showcasing innovative practices across schools and facilitating shared learning. Fairmont Heights High School's math team stands out as an example of success, having seen incremental improvements in student performance thanks to early and sustained planning.

Notably, the completion rate for the School Improvement Plan for Cycle 1 in Area 3 schools has surged from approximately 40% to 70% — a 30% percentage point increase in engagement that underscores the growing commitment to continuous improvement across the area.

Collaborating to Support School Registration & Enrollment Staff

To better support school-based registration and enrollment staff, Pupil Accounting teamed up with the PGCPS Technology Training Team to provide assistance through phone calls, Zoom meetings, and in-person sessions. Monthly "Lunch & Learn" sessions were launched to continue this support, allowing staff to access recorded sessions and ongoing FAQs.

Digitizing Student Records for Seamless Access

The Office of Student Records, Transfers and Archival Services is digitizing student records for the Online Campus program, providing remote access to records for grades 7-12 starting in the second semester. Full digitization will be complete by January 31, 2025, resulting in cost savings, improved document access, and enhanced security.

DIVISION OF FINANCE

Ensuring Financial Transparency: ACFR Completed on Time

The Accounting and Financial Reporting team successfully completed the FY2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) by the September 30, 2024 state deadline. Despite a compressed timeline for a district of PGCPS's size, the team collaborated with departments and external agencies to meet all audit requirements. The state-required audit report found no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, underscoring strong internal controls.

Additionally, the FY2024 ACFR was submitted to the Government Finance Officers Association for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting program — a recognition PGCPSS has received for 16 consecutive years.





DIVISION OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Policies in Action: Shaping Governance & Student Success

The Office of Government Relations, Compliance, and Procedures (OGRCP) drafted several policies that were enacted by the Board of Education during Q2 of the 2024-25 school year. These include policies on Board of Education Standing Committees and Focus Work Groups, Officers, Wellness, Nutrition and Physical Activity, Safe and Supportive Schools, Grading and Reporting for Elementary and Secondary Students, Student Board Member, Service Animals in Schools, Student Information and Records, and Education Equity.

Additionally, policies were drafted and recommended for public comment or initial Board review. These include Student Identification Cards, Attendance/Absence/Tuancy, Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation, Evaluation of Library Materials, Field Trips, Policy Development, Superintendent Evaluation Process, Possession and the Use of Alcohol and Drugs on School Grounds, Curriculum Development for Instructional Programs, Automated External Defibrillators, Purchasing, Number of Board Members and Terms, Adoption of Policies, Investments, Legal Age of Admission, Board Member Expense Reimbursement, and Principal Selection Process.

Enhancing Processes for Efficiency & Equity

OGRCP reviewed and revised several Administrative Procedures (APs) across various categories:

- Administration: Financial Impropriety and Whistleblower Protections, Recycling Program
- Students: Grade Change Authorization and Appeals
- Instruction: Experiential Learning Procedures, Language Immersion Program, Lottery and Audition Administration

New APs under review include: Use of Security Enhancement Equipment, People First Language, Data Dashboards, Reduction of Food Waste, and P-Cards.

System guidance APs under review include IT Services Google Procedures; IT Acceptable Usage Procedures; Technology Services Remote Access; and Parent, Family, and Community Involvement. In Administration, the Professional Library Circulation AP is under review. Business and Non-Instructional Operations APs under review include: Ticket Sales, Money Collection, and Accounting for Athletic Events; Renaming Schools; Grants Management Procedures; and Procedures for Employee Use of Board of Education Owned Motor Vehicles. In Personnel, the Principal Selection Process and Transition to Work are under review.

Advocating for PGCPs: Legislative Priorities & Engagement

The OGRCP developed the 2025 Legislative Platform, which was approved by the Policy and Governance Committee and the Board of Education. The office also assisted with the November Legislative Day and is tracking bills for the upcoming legislative session to analyze proposed legislation. Additionally, OGRCP created the PGCPs School List of Elected Officials, which links schools to their respective delegates, senators, and council members in Prince George's County.

Ensuring Safety and Accountability: Compliance and Investigations

OGRCPC remains focused on safety compliance and accountability across the district. The office generated Safe Schools compliance reports for Rounds 1, 2, and 3 and created Raptor Visitor Management System usage reports.

In audits and investigations, OGRCPC continues to support the Office of Legislative Audits five-year audit, by coordinating the submission of requested data from divisions. The office also assisted the Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education with five investigations into allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse.

Foundation Supports P-TECH with Mentor Program

The Excellence in Education Foundation for PGCPSS, Inc. is supporting the Department of Career and Technical Education's Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program, helping scholars to connect with partners to receive valuable mentorship. Scholars hear directly from industry leaders, change-makers, and inspiring voices who are making a difference in today's global workforce while enhancing students' individual, professional, and academic growth.

Reducing Food Insecurity in PGCPSS

Little Miner Taco has partnered with the Excellence in Education Foundation for PGCPSS, Inc. to combat food insecurity. For a limited time, 100% of proceeds from kids' meals will go toward providing nutritious meals for students in need.

Many families in our community face food insecurity, which directly impacts students' ability to focus, learn, and thrive. This partnership helps ensure students receive the nourishment they need to succeed in school and beyond.

Improving Access, Equity & Efficiency in Appeals

The Office of Appeals and Hearings made significant strides in streamlining processes, improving access to critical information, and enhancing transparency for both employees and families. Key initiatives this quarter include:

Website Revamp: The Office website was overhauled to provide clear, accessible information on employee and student appeals, as well as the discipline process. Schools can now electronically submit initial notifications for expulsions or extended suspensions, improving efficiency and reducing paperwork.

New Guidance Published: To support school leaders in navigating the discipline process, the office created and published the School Guide: Extended Suspension and Expulsion Process, providing step-by-step instructions and best practices for handling disciplinary actions.

Expanded Appeals Processes: In collaboration with district administrators, the office began developing new appeals processes for Athletics and Transportation to ensure fair and consistent practices across these areas. These efforts are currently in progress.

Employee Appeals Workflow: The office developed a formal workflow to manage the acquisition and processing of employee appeals, creating a more organized and efficient approach to handling cases.

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DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

“Driving Green Action in PGCPs”

The Strategic Communications team played a critical role in planning and executing the October “Driving Green Action” media event, which highlighted the district’s sustainability initiatives and leadership in climate action.

Key Activities:

- Developing messaging and distributing media advisories, news releases, guest, speaker and elected official invitations, and speaker packets.
- Coordinating event visuals, including signage, banners, and promotional materials, and securing audio-visual setup.
- Managing event logistics, including guest registration, speaker support, and facilitating school and electric bus tours.
- Organizing multimedia coverage to maximize exposure across various platforms.
- Partnering with local stakeholders to enhance event engagement and secure sponsorships.

The Communications Team’s strategic planning and execution effectively showcased PGCPs’s achievements in sustainability, contributing to the district’s recognition as a leader in climate action and environmental stewardship. Media coverage was earned across local outlets, including WTOP, NBC4 and more.

Media Event: Bridging Gaps in Behavioral Health Services

To announce a new \$25 million grant connecting students to more mental health and wellness resources, the Strategic Communication team partnered with Student Services and state partners to plan and execute a press event. The event garnered significant media coverage, including DC News Now, NBC4, WTOP, ABC7, CTV News, The Diamondback, The Washington Informer and more. Through the grant, PGCPs partnered with 18 organizations to supplement current services provided by district professional school counselors, psychologists, social workers, and mental health clinicians.

“We are grateful for this new funding, which will allow PGCPs to enhance mental health and wellness resources across the district, ensuring all students have access to vital services. Leveraging the expertise of our partners, we can ensure that every student has access to the support they need to thrive academically and emotionally.”

-Superintendent Millard House II



WATCH

*See students in action
with drones, 3D
printers, coding games
and more!*

Superintendent Millard House II and Exelon President and Chief Executive Officer Calvin Butler join students at the Tayac Elementary School STEM Center opening.

Amplifying District Achievements & Opportunities

Between October and December 2024, the communications team amplified and promoted key district priorities including: the release of Maryland Report Card ratings, the fall Employee Town Hall, the ParentVue Registration Campaign, and Blueprint Phase II Groundbreakings. Additional highlights included the launch of a new STEM Center at Tayac Elementary School, the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for Ellen Ochoa Middle School, engagement around local and national elections, the Family Institute Conference, Specialty Programs applications, the 2nd Annual Legislative Day, employee Winter Spirit Week and more.

Preparing for Crises

In anticipation of potential crises, the Strategic Communications team took proactive steps to ensure schools are equipped with clear, accessible, and effective communication tools. One key initiative was the revamp of school-level incident letter templates. These templates were updated to include a broader range of potential scenarios, ensuring that schools can respond quickly and appropriately to various emergencies. Additionally, the templates were streamlined to make it easier for school administrators to locate the appropriate letter during urgent situations.

To further strengthen emergency preparedness, the graphic design and translations teams updated district emergency weather graphics and accompanying copy. These updates ensure materials are visually engaging, culturally appropriate, and easily understandable by diverse school communities. By taking these steps, the Strategic Communications team aims to enhance the overall effectiveness of crisis communication, ensuring that schools can provide timely and accurate information to students, parents, and staff when it matters most.

Engaging Through Storytelling: Multimedia Team Engages, Informs, and Inspires

The PGCPSS Multimedia Team continues to drive engagement and awareness through dynamic video storytelling, offering a fresh look at the district's achievements, programs, and student-centered initiatives. With a focus on creative content, the team's projects — The Sideline, Get to Know PGCPSS, Kidz News, Spotlights and The Science Bowl — engage and bring important topics to life in innovative and accessible ways.

The Sideline:

Showcasing Lesser-Known Sports

While spotlighting less popular sports in PGCPSS, The Sideline explores the history and benefits of these events, and offers tips for success for student athletes. Four episodes have been produced, with six additional planned this school year. The show has resonated on social media, with more than 68,000 views on Instagram, providing a platform for athletes to share their stories and inspire future generations.



Get to Know PGCPSS: Exploring District

Programs and Services

New this school year, the Get to Know PGCPSS series introduces viewers to essential departments and services within the district. Episodes highlight the Office of Interpreting & Translations, Library Media Services, and Specialty Programs, ensuring families and stakeholders are informed about the resources available to support student success. This video series helps foster a more connected and knowledgeable school community.



Kidz News: Young Voices, Big Stories

Centered around elementary students as news anchors, Kidz News brings a youthful energy to storytelling, making district achievements relatable and exciting for young viewers. From new calming rooms and STEM center openings to environmental conservation efforts, the five episodes produced so far this school year deliver student-friendly news with a polished, professional touch.



Spotlights: Celebrating Achievements at Board Meetings

Replacing the former Newsbreaks, Spotlights are featured during board meetings to showcase notable initiatives across the district. Recent spotlights have included the Professional Educators Induction Program, Outward Bound adventures, cafeteria renovations, the new Laurel High School stadium, and Brilliant Futures initiatives.





Web Support Satisfaction Rate Remains High

Web Services achieved a 100% customer satisfaction rate this quarter while managing a 10% increase in web support ticket requests. The team successfully resolved 1,057 tickets, demonstrating their commitment to high-quality service and timely solutions.

Website Refresh Focuses on Enhanced User Experience

The newly refreshed PGCPs.org website, launched in October, offers improved navigation, marketing capabilities, and brand alignment. Key updates include a new megamenu with expanded link options and featured content, an upgraded home page slider supporting social media reels, full-screen videos, and photos, along with font and color adjustments consistent with the PGCPs style guide.

Engage to Elevate: Family Institute Conference

The Department of Family and Community Partnerships hosted its 5th Annual Family Institute Conference on November 9 at Oxon Hill High School. Themed "Engage to Elevate," the event brought together executive staff, Board of Education members, nationally renowned speakers, and 22 community partners who provided free resources to attendees. The conference registered 750 participants, with 450 parents, families, educators, and students attending in person. Additionally, 30 out-of-district guests from Maryland, Virginia, and D.C. jurisdictions participated, including representatives from Prince George's County Government, the U.S. Department of Education, and neighboring school districts.

To enhance the attendee experience, the event provided free breakfast and lunch, along with childcare services for 125 students, featuring STEM-focused activities. Participants benefited from 18 learning sessions, which received strong attendance and positive evaluation feedback. Language access support was available both in person and in print, ensuring inclusivity for diverse families. The conference concluded with the presentation of Parent Leadership Awards to eight recipients, recognizing their contributions to the school community.





Workshops, Trainings & Community Engagement in Action

Workshops, Trainings & Community Engagement

The Department hosted eight fall Family Institute evening sessions aimed at building capacity for parents and families. Parent Engagement Assistants from 98 schools delivered one workshop per month, focusing on relationship-building and school priorities. Topics included: Preparing for Parent-Teacher Conferences, ParentVue, Stop Finder, Understanding the IEP, Parents as Partners, PCAC for Parent Voice, Testing 101 and Free PGCPs Resources for Families.

The Department also hosted six Parent Cafes with 30 average participants; three, five-week 'Dadversities' providing workshops for 75 male role models; and three in-person Volunteer Site Coordinator Training Sessions for schools, providing essential guidance on managing school volunteers effectively.

Finally, monthly check-ins with District Agreement Partners, MOU Partners, and Supporters were conducted to maintain and strengthen community relationships.

Empowering Families with Multilingual Communication Support

From October through December, the Office of Interpreting & Translation (OIT) managed 1,270 translation projects to support outreach efforts and ensure linguistically diverse families stay informed. This included 845 school and office projects and 425 Special Education projects across multiple languages, such as Spanish, French, and others. Key initiatives included translating the Blueprint Implementation Plan, Parent and Family Engagement Plans for all schools, the Transformation Strategic Plan Annual Report 2023-24, and Capital Project Updates. The team also enhanced accessibility for digital platforms, including the Synergy ParentVUE Guide.

Real-Time Communication Across Cultures

The OIT facilitated 5,498 interpreting requests across 29 languages in Q4 of 2024, ensuring equitable access to information for diverse communities. Top languages included Spanish, ASL, French, and Dari. The office provided both in-person and virtual interpreting services for various meetings and events, reflecting a strong commitment to inclusivity and accessibility.



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