



Community schools serve as hubs that bring families, communities, and partners together to remove barriers to learning. Leveraging the resources of community partners, local governments, and other stakeholders, community schools strive to strengthen connections between home, school, and communities to support student success.



Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) has designated the following as community schools for the 2023–24 school year:

- Deep Run Elementary
- Homewood Center
- Laurel Woods Elementary
- Stevens Forest Elementary

HCPSS’ community schools will be funded through the **Blueprint for Maryland’s Future**, a law mandating the use of programs and innovative approaches to eradicate achievement gaps and ensure opportunity for every student and the **Maryland Leads Initiative** from the Maryland State Department of Education.



Community schools implement six key practices:

1. Powerful student and family engagement.
2. Collaborative leadership and shared power and voice.
3. Expanded and enriched learning opportunities.
4. Rigorous, community-connected classroom instruction.
5. Culture of belonging, safety, and care.
6. Integrated systems of support.

Programs and Services

Because students’ and families’ needs vary by community, the services provided at individual community schools vary as well.

Depending on the needs of a given community, community schools can provide services such as:

- Extended learning time 
- Extended school year
- Safe transportation to and from school 
- Vision and dental services
- Expanded school-based health center services
- Additional social workers, counselors, and psychologists
- Additional mentors and restorative practice coaches 
- Healthy food in-school and out-of-school
- Access to mental health practitioners

For more information

about HCPSS’ community schools, visit <https://hcpssne.ws/communityschools> or contact communityschools@hcpss.org.

Blueprint for Maryland’s Future
<https://blueprint.marylandpublicschools.org/>

Maryland Leads Initiative
<https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/MDLeads/index.aspx>