As we close out the first few months of the school year, we already have a lot to celebrate. This year, we are focusing on the fundamentals. By working with our students to master basic concepts we lay a strong foundation for the success of every child who walks through our doors.

Prince George’s County is a special place and we are at our best when we are working together. We are embarking on an ambitious construction project to build six schools. And we are pioneering new career and technical education programs to prepare high school students for the path of their choosing following graduation.

It is achievements and initiatives like these that are drawing more families to entrust Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) with their child’s education. This school year, we saw our largest enrollment increase in over 15 years — a vote of confidence in the incredible work of our teachers, principals and support staff. We are focused on ensuring the highest quality teaching, learning and leadership at every school.

In the pages to follow, I hope you will join me in celebrating our successes, learning more about our new initiatives and discussing ways to help us continue growing together. I look forward to what we will build as the year progresses.

With PGCPS pride,

Dr. Monica E. Goldson
Chief Executive Officer
Prince George’s County Public Schools
2019–20 UPDATES AND INITIATIVES

This year we are continuing to engage the community to help address issues that matter most to PGCPS families.

Below are some of the most important updates and initiatives for the 2019-20 school year:

- **Record-breaking Enrollment:** Enrollment is up by almost 4,000 students for the 2019-2020 academic year, the largest single-year increase in over 15 years. Now at an estimated 136,500 students, the school system’s enrollment has grown by nearly 13,000 students since the 2012-2013 academic year.

- **Improving Transportation:** A new 23-member Transportation Task Force is charged with developing ideas, approaches and solutions to address ongoing issues with on-time pickup and delivery of students. The goal of this group is to provide actionable recommendations to improve bus arrival and departure times, evaluate recruiting efforts to hire and retain bus drivers and explore the need for bus route changes, shifting to a hub pick-up/drop-off model and adjusting school start times. The task force’s membership includes parents, a Board of Education Member, school system staff and county government and union representatives.

- **Increasing Transparency:** Last March, a review by the Maryland Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) identified a number of issues in our financial management practices between 2015 to 2017. In response, we sought to take a proactive and transparent approach to conduct an additional forensic audit to uncover any potential violations and outline steps to address these issues. The OLA Audit contained 19 findings that required remedial work on the part of PGCPS. We have a detailed remedial plan to address these findings to maintain full compliance with the standards outlined in the OLA report. The status of each finding can be found online at www.pgcps.org/ceo.

- **Serving All Students:** PGCPS serves nearly 18,000 students who require various special education services. More than 15,700 students (ages 3 to 21) have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for specialized instruction and related services. The Department of Special Education has developed a 2019-2022 strategic plan to address programmatic improvements, general supervision monitoring of IEPs and the implementation of evidence-based strategies to increase student achievement and performance. In total, these efforts will help all of our students, regardless of abilities, receive a quality education.

- **PGCPS en Español (Facebook):** Recognizing the importance of engaging families and communities of diverse backgrounds, we officially launched PGCPS en Español on Facebook. We hope this important service helps the entire PGCPS community remain up to date and connected to what is happening across the district.
THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

An Update on the Blueprint for PGCPS:

The Blueprint for PGCPS provides strategic direction for academic programs, initiatives and facilities. We aim to enhance the student experience in every grade level, classroom and school by expanding access to high-quality educators and support services while accelerating construction of 21st century buildings.

2019 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program Results

Overall, our Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) scores mirror the state’s gains and losses. We will focus on investing in the fundamentals of mathematics and English to improve overall student performance and provide students and families in our community with the highest quality teaching and leadership in every school.

This year’s MCAP results showed:

- African American elementary and middle school students in Prince George’s County perform better than their peers in Maryland on the English Language Arts (ELA) portion of the MCAP assessment.
- In recent years, we focused efforts on improving student performance in English Language Arts, and the scores show modest gains in these areas. We are continuing to invest in these efforts by providing additional student resources and support, including the creation of a new digital literacy program.
- Although our MCAP mathematics scores continue to rank below the state average, we are setting high academic standards and increased supports to help students master grade-level or higher fundamentals.

Elementary & Middle School Tests

| % of Students who Met or Exceeded Expectations, 2016-2019 |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                 | 2016             | 2017             | 2018             | 2019             |
| ELA             | 20.4             | 22.4             | 29.4             | 31.3             |
| Math            | 17.4             | 17.2             | 17.5             | 17.1             |

High School Tests

| % of Students who Met or Exceeded Expectations, 2016-2019 |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                 | 2016             | 2017             | 2018             | 2019             |
| ELA 10          | 31.8             | 24.5             | 24.8             | 28.3             |
| Algebra 1       | 16.2             | 15.6             | 18.6             | 18.3             |
School Construction Update

With the support of County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks and the County Council, PGCPS will invest $25 million to $30 million annually for the next 30 years in school construction funds – our largest infrastructure investment in generations.

After careful consideration of school communities with the most need and facilities in need of repair, PGCPS selected six schools to be included in the first round of new school construction: Drew-Freeman, Hyattsville, Kenmoor, Walker Mill and new buildings in the Adelphi and southern areas of the county. The southern area school will consolidate Potomac Landing Elementary School and Isaac Gourdine Middle School in a new kindergarten through eighth-grade building.

The overall construction project will add over 5,500 seats and improve learning environments for over 10,000 students.

Along with selecting schools for the initial round of construction, PGCPS is embarking on a first-of-its-kind contracting process that doubles state small and minority business inclusion goals by ensuring local and minority businesses are participants through each part of the process. Investment in the community cannot stop with hiring local, we are also requiring that our business partners also give back to the community they are now a part of. Developers and businesses bidding on our work are also required to set up apprenticeships and scholarships for PGCPS students.

Over the next decade, more than 30 schools in the district will undergo renovations to improve learning and working conditions.

To learn more about the Blueprint for PGCPS, visit pgcps.org/blueprint.
Hosted by the nonprofit Excellence in Education Foundation for PGCPS, the inaugural Hall of Fame Gala wove together a story of excellence, achievement, perseverance and pride through the stories of seven outstanding honorees — all former students and teachers. Inductees included championship boxer Sugar Ray Leonard, Grammy Award-nominated singer-songwriter Kenny Lattimore, State Sen. Mike Miller, Pastor John K. Jenkins, educator Celeste Williams, State Delegate Jazz Lewis, and St. Mary’s College of Maryland President Dr. Tuajuanda C. Jordan.

The gala successfully raised more than $150,000 to support students and schools. It was an honor to welcome back and celebrate our PGCPS family on a night like none other.
Dr. Goldson and recipients of the FAMU “Rattlers on the Move” alumni award during the Homecoming Football game.