

# News Release: CEO's Proposed Budget To Expand High Demand Programs; Support Literacy Skills

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For Immediate Release

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**UPPER MARLBORO, MD** - Last evening, Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for Prince George's County Public Schools, presented his recommendations for the district's Fiscal Year 2016 Proposed Annual Operating Budget to the Board of Education. The 1.839 billion dollar proposal represents a 2.5 percent increase over this year's 1.795 billion dollar budget and focuses on achieving academic excellence, developing a high-performing workforce, increasing organizational effectiveness, deepening the system's engagement with families and communities, and providing a safe and supportive school environment.

"It is critical that we continue the course we set – so our students have the staff, programs, and supports to help them achieve academic excellence," said Dr. Maxwell. "I have presented a proposal that encompasses our goals, while recognizing that certain fiscal uncertainties exist."

To support academic excellence, the budget focuses on providing rigorous educational opportunities from elementary through high school by continuing to expand successful programs of choice. These include language immersion, International Baccalaureate, and Montessori, as well as two new International High Schools that will provide a supportive learning environment for students beginning to learn English. Also, all-day prekindergarten will be expanded and Reading Specialists added to help build literacy skills, the foundation for future academic success.

To build a high-performing workforce, the budget honors the district's labor agreements by providing a competitive salary and benefits package for employees. Recruiting, training, and retaining a talented workforce to help our students succeed remains a top priority for the district.

"Dr. Maxwell has proposed an ambitious budget to move our system forward," said Dr. Segun C. Eubanks, Board Chair. "The Board is committed to a thorough process of deliberation and public input that will ensure a budget that supports this vision of greatness. We share Dr. Maxwell's goals to attract and retain high-quality personnel through competitive compensation. We also will ensure that all of our students have access to a quality education from pre-K to graduation."

From the CEO's budget, the Board of Education will create a requested budget for the school system and submit it to the County Executive by March 1.

"It is no secret that the future of continual growth in Prince George's County's economy and quality of life resides with the strength of and confidence in our public school system," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "When we attracted Dr. Kevin Maxwell, one of the nation's top Superintendents, to become Chief Executive Officer of PGPCS, it was, in part, because he is not only familiar with the structure and organization of the school system but also because he is a masterful manager of budget and administration. The PGPCS FY 16 Budget proposal appears prudent and pragmatic. This budget appears to fund priorities and invests in programs that will attract families to PGPCS. I want to thank Dr. Kevin Maxwell and his staff for their diligence in preparing this budget and look forward to our subsequent review and analysis, and to discussion with the Board of Education."

To provide opportunities for the community to participate in the budget development process, the Board of Education will host three public budget hearings:

January 20, 2015 - BOE Work Session (5 p.m.), Public Hearing (7 p.m.)

January 27, 2015 - BOE Work Session (5 p.m.), Public Hearing (7 p.m.)

February 10, 2015 - BOE Work Session (5 p.m.), Public Hearing (7 p.m.)

All work sessions and public hearings will be held in the Board Room of the Sasscer Administration Building, located at 14201 School Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

View more information on the FY2016 Operating Budget at <http://www1.pgcps.org/fy16budget> (<http://www1.pgcps.org/fy16budget>).

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Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 20th largest school districts, has 201 schools and centers, more than 133,000 students and nearly 20,000 employees. The school system serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.