

# PGCPS + PULL UP FUND + HEART OF AMERICA

## 2025 LIBRARY INITIATIVE

### FACT SHEET

---

#### About Prince George's County Public Schools

[source](#)

- PGCPS is among the 20 largest school districts in the U.S.
- It is the second-largest school system in Maryland
- Total student enrollment: 132,854 (2024)

#### Maryland literacy rates

[source](#)

- Maryland's NAEP scores have generally declined since 2013. Grade 4 scores increased in 2024 while Grade 8 scores were relatively unchanged. [source](#)
- Maryland average 4<sup>th</sup> grade literacy score: 216
- 41% of students below basic reading level 2024
- 26% of students at basic reading level 2024
- 22% of students at proficient reading level 2024
- 12% of students at advanced reading level 2024

#### Information about literacy

- The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) data shows a decline in reading proficiency among both 4th and 8th graders in recent years, with average scores declining in 2024 compared to 2022. [source](#)
- [Maryland Reads: Reading Education Aligned to Data and Science](#)
- Poor reading by mid-elementary is associated with a four-time greater risk of dropping out of high school and a greater risk of adverse outcomes in postsecondary education and life. [source](#)
- [Investing in School Libraries and Librarians to Improve Literacy Outcomes - Center for American Progress](#)
  - 50 years of research across over 60 studies reveal that students with access to well-resourced school libraries with certified librarians consistently perform better academically
  - 2007 NCES data showed significant correlation between NAEP reading scores and the number of children's books accessible for checkout in public libraries
  - PA School Library Project findings – in schools with full-time certified librarians, fewer Black students (5.5%), Latino students (5.2%), and disabled students (4.6%) tested below basic levels in reading
  - On average, Black and Latino students who had access to larger school library collections saw their percentages of advanced writing scores more than double and their likelihood of scoring below basic levels cut in half, compared with their peers in schools with smaller collections

#### Information about STEM

[source](#)

- As with learning a new language, children become fluent in STEM habits and more knowledgeable about STEM topics when they are immersed in them. (Joan Ganz Cooney Center, 2017)
- Early STEM instruction leads to better language and literacy outcomes. (Sarama et al. 2012)

- Children who engage in scientific activities from an early age develop positive attitudes toward science which also correlate with later science achievement, and they are more likely to pursue STEM expertise and careers later on. (Joan Ganz Cooney Center, 2017)

[source](#)

- In the next 10 years, it's estimated that there will be over 821,300 STEM job openings. Those are hundreds of thousands of opportunities for young people! (Via SmartAsset, February 2022)
- Currently, federal investment in diversifying STEM education and opportunity focuses on the college level and higher, with less funding dedicated to K-12 education. This leaves a critical window of missed opportunity at the K-12 level. (Via The National Science Foundation, July 2022).
- The median annual wage for STEM workers is \$101,650  
In 2023, the median annual wage for STEM occupations was \$101,650, more than double the median wage for all occupations, which stood at \$48,060. (Via US Bureau of Labor Statistics)

[source](#)

- According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), enrollment in STEM majors has grown by 15% over the past five years.

## General information about infrastructure

[source](#)

- The 2025 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Report Card for America's Infrastructure gives the nation's school facilities a D+.
- Only 10% of total school spending in School Year (SY) 2021–2022 was directed to facility expenses, a total that has been low for decades. The majority of this spending is dedicated to new construction rather than maintenance of existing buildings.
- Less than half of states collect representative data on their school facilities.
- Based on public data, the average age of main instructional buildings in America's public school system is 49 years. That means many buildings where American school children spend their days are reaching their 50-year design life, where essential facility systems need comprehensive upgrades or replacements.
- Throughout the U.S., 38% of public school buildings were constructed before 1970, with another 41% split evenly between 1970 and 2000 and between 2000 and 2023. 22% of American public school's report that they do not know the construction year of their main instructional buildings.
- Despite their age, fewer than half of all public school buildings have undergone significant renovations or replacements since their original construction, and fewer than one-third have undergone improvement since 2010.
- In 2021, the 21st Century Schools Fund found that America's investments in public primary and secondary schools trailed the need for state of good repair by \$85 billion annually, a 42% increase from \$60 billion (2020 dollars) as estimated in 2016.
- That total includes capital improvement needs as well as maintenance and facility operations. While those repair needs grow, as do the total number of projects and inflation-adjusted cost for each, a list of new facility features is moving from "nice to have" to "necessary," and chief among those "must-haves" is air conditioning.

## Information about funding for infrastructure

[source](#)

- About \$813 billion in total spending supported America's public PK–12 schools in SY 2021–22, including \$703 billion in operations expenditures and \$79 billion in capital costs, with \$22 billion in debt service and \$9 billion in other programming.

- Capital costs represent less than 10% of total education spending, and capital budgets skew heavily toward new facilities rather than maintenance of existing infrastructure.
- 76% of capital expenditures (\$60 billion) were dedicated to construction on new sites. Equipment purchases cover the bulk of the remaining capital budget. Investments at this rate mean the upkeep of buildings is often underfunded and delayed, often to the point where full replacement is needed.

## HOA-specific stats

- HOA has had the following impact in PGCPS:
  - 85 total projects
    - 66 resource distributions
    - 19 transformations
  - Our projects have impacted the lives of 40,000 students
  - We have provided over 113,000 books
- Relevant to this project:
  - Our PGCPS project will impact over 25,000 students (excluding Bonnie Johns Professional Library)
  - Just shy of 26,000 students will use these spaces, an incredible impact for the district! As more students come of age, the impact will continue for generations, year after year.
  - We will provide over 25,000 books to the district! Because we think students should be able to see themselves in the books they read, we provide culturally relevant, diverse books for each library.