



Office of Institutional Research & Effectiveness

Fall 2023 Enrollment Highlights and Analysis

This report summarizes the trends in headcount, bill hours, and student demographics.

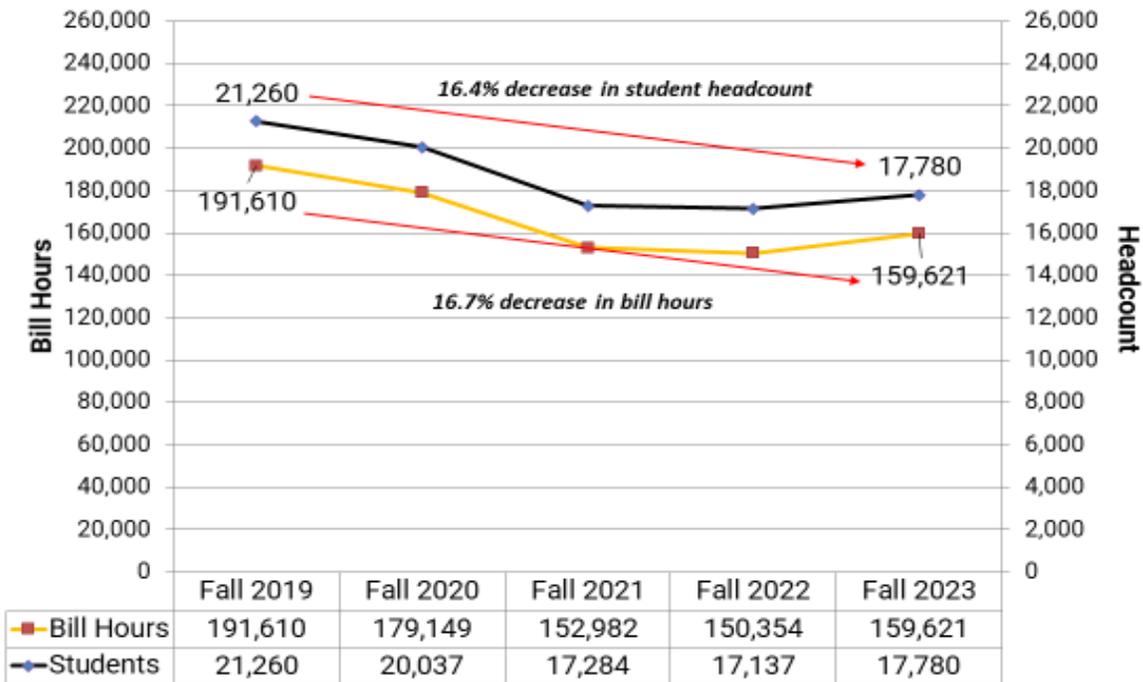


October 2023
Dr. Arlene Blaylock, Director
Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

Fall 2023 Official Credit Enrollment Summary

As the impact of the pandemic gradually fades, a reversal in the staggering trend of decline in student enrollment has begun. In fall 2023, Montgomery College enrolled 17,780 individual students and generated 159,621 bill hours. After several years of marked decline, headcount and bill hours increased by 3.8 percent (643 more students) and 6.2 percent (9,267 more bill hours) compared to the previous fall semester. The increase in enrollment positioned the College to exceed the projection in both students and bill hours. As such, the College realized 102 percent of the projection in student headcount and 103 percent of projected bill hours. However, over the past five years, from fall 2019 to fall 2023, the loss of students (-16.7

Figure 1: Student Headcount and Bill Hours – Fall 2019 to Fall 2023



percent) and bill hours (-16.7 percent) is still considerably large, but the gap is gradually diminishing.

Table 1 shows the number of bill hours generated at each campus and in distance learning. It should be noted that bill hours for remote classes are included in the campus data. In comparison to the previous fall semester, bill hours in fall 2023 show a double-digit percentage increase at the Germantown Campus (13.2 percent), single-digit percentage increases at the Rockville Campus (7.5 percent), and in distance learning (3.1

Table 1: 5-Year Bill Hours Trend by Campus					
	GT	RV	TPSS	DL	CW
2019	31,827	92,353	39,155	28,275	191,610
2020	30,096	80,697	34,671	33,685	179,149
2021	26,723	66,384	28,015	31,860	152,982
2022	25,504	65,471	25,871	33,508	150,354
2023	28,866	70,372	25,822	34,561	159,621
1-Year % Change	13.2%	7.5%	-0.2%	3.1%	6.2%
5-Year % Change	-9.3%	-23.8%	-34.1%	22.2%	-16.7%

percent), while bill hours at the Takoma Park Campus declined a tad (-0.2 percent). The increase in bill hours ranges from 1,057 distance learning bill hours to 4,901 additional bill hours at the Rockville Campus.

The differential in bill hours between fall 2019 and fall 2023 is -9.3 percent at the Germantown campus, -23.8 percent at the Rockville campus, and -34.7 percent at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus, while bill hours in distance learning are up 22.2 percent.

Part of Term: Most students enroll in courses offered in the traditional 15-week option (Table 2). However, many students enroll in courses across the fall semester term options, or in a combination of 15-week, 7-week, and/or late-start course offerings. Data on the second half of the semester is not included in this analysis because it has yet to start.

Table 2: Headcount by Part of Term – Fall 2019 to Fall 2023				
	15-Week	First 7-Week	Late Start	Unduplicated Headcount
Fall 2019	19,089	1,441	7,098	21,260
Fall 2020	16,814	1,508	7,474	20,037
Fall 2021	13,298	4,174	5,444	17,284
Fall 2022	13,669	2,969	6,401	17,137
Fall 2023	14,442	2,495	7,358	17,780
1-Year % Change	5.7%	-16.0%	15.0%	3.8%
5-Year % Change	-24.3%	73.1%	3.7%	-16.4%

In fall 2023, the number of students who opted to enroll in the traditional 15-week option increased more than 5.7 percent above the previous year. It is the second consecutive increase after several years of steep declines. However, 24.3 percent fewer students enrolled in the 15-week course option than in fall 2019.

Enrollment in the shorter 7-week option continues to decline in fall 2023 after the encouraging enrollment figure in fall 2021. The number of students who chose to enroll in the 7-week course option during the first half of the fall semester decreased 16 percent compared to the previous fall semester and is more than 40 percent below its peak enrollment in fall 2021. However, 73.1 percent more students are enrolled in the 7-week course option in fall 2023 than in fall 2019.

Late-start class enrollment is picking up steam. Although enrollment in this option fluctuated over the past few years, the enrollment in late-start courses in fall 2023 increased is up 15.0 percent above the enrollment figure in fall 2022 and is 3.7 percent higher than fall 2019 and 35.2 percent higher than the lowest enrollment period in fall 2021.

Table 3: Percentage of Enrollment by Part of Term Fall 2019 to Fall 2023				
	15-Week	First 7- Week	Late Start	Total Enrollment
Fall 2019	69.1%	5.2%	25.7%	27,628
Fall 2020	65.2%	5.8%	29.0%	25,796
Fall 2021	58.0%	18.2%	23.8%	22,916
Fall 2022	59.3%	12.9%	27.8%	23,039
Fall 2023	59.4%	10.3%	30.3%	24,295
1-Year % Point Change	0.1%	-2.6%	2.5%	5.5%
5-Year % Point Change	-9.6%	5.1%	4.6%	-12.1%

More than 59 percent of enrollment can be accounted for by students enrolled in the traditional 15-week option and the percentage is relatively unchanged from the previous fall semester and is 9.6 percentage points below the figure in fall 2019. The traditional 15-week option remains the single highest course enrollment option across the five years shown in Table 3. The percentage of enrollment accounted for by courses offered in the first 7-week option declined two percentage points, but is 5.1 percentage points above the percent of enrollment in the 7-week option in fall 2019. As the percentage of enrollment in the first 7-week option declined, the percentage of enrollment in late start classes in the first half of the fall semester increased 2.6 percentage points above fall 2022 and 4.6 percentage points above fall 2019. It appears to be a shift in enrollment from the first 7-week course offering option to the late start option in the first half of the fall semester.

Student Demographics

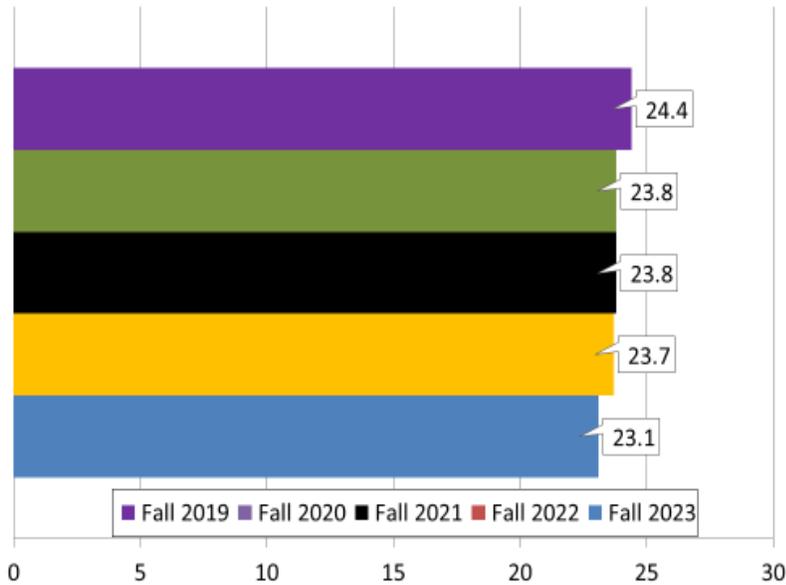
The number of first-time- ever-in-college students (FTEIC) increased by 9.4 percent in fall 2023 compared to the number of FTEIC students who entered the College in fall 2022 – is the first increase in this five-year trend – and is 9.3 percent below the enrollment of FTEIC students in fall 2019. This student population’s enrollment increase is just 22 students short of the enrollment figure for FTEIC students in fall 2021.

Table 4: Enrollment of First-time Ever in College Students					
	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023
	3,931	3,588	2,958	3,260	3,566
% of Enrollment	18.5%	17.9%	17.1%	19.0%	20.1%

FTEIC student accounts for 20.1 percent of the total fall 2023 enrollment, up by one percentage points above the previous fall semester and 1.6 percentage points above their representation in fall 2019.

AGE: The average age of Montgomery College students is gradually declining (Figure 2). In fall 2023, the average age is 23.1, slightly younger than students in the previous fall semester and more than one year younger than the student body in fall 2019 (24.4 years of age).

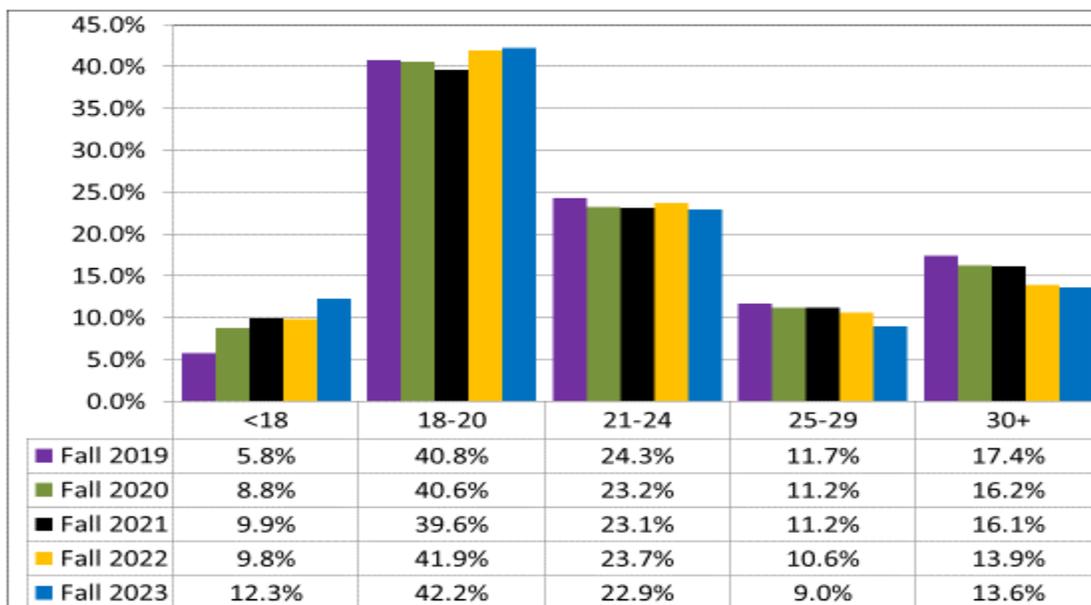
Figure 2: Average Age of Students – Fall 2019 to Fall 2023



The proportion of enrollment of students under 18 continues to increase (Figure 3). Dual enrollment, that is, students concurrently enrolled at the College and in high school, and other partnership programs the College has with Montgomery County Public Schools can attribute to it. As shown in Figure 3, the proportion of students below 18 years old increased by 2.5 points, from 9.8% of enrollment in fall 2022 to 12.3% in fall 2023 – and up 7.5 percentage points since fall 2019. Students in the 18 to 20 years of age consistently account for the most significant single proportion of enrollment at the College, currently peaking at 42.2 percent.

The proportion of students in all other age categories slightly falls below what we observed in the previous fall semester. The proportion of enrollment for students in the 21 to 24 age group declined somewhat, while the proportion of students in the 25 and older age groups shows a gradual but steady decline in enrollment. Data for students who are 30 years of age and above show a 3.8 percentage point decline between fall 2019 and fall 2023.

Figure 3: Percentage of Enrollment by Age Groups: Fall 2019 to Fall 2023

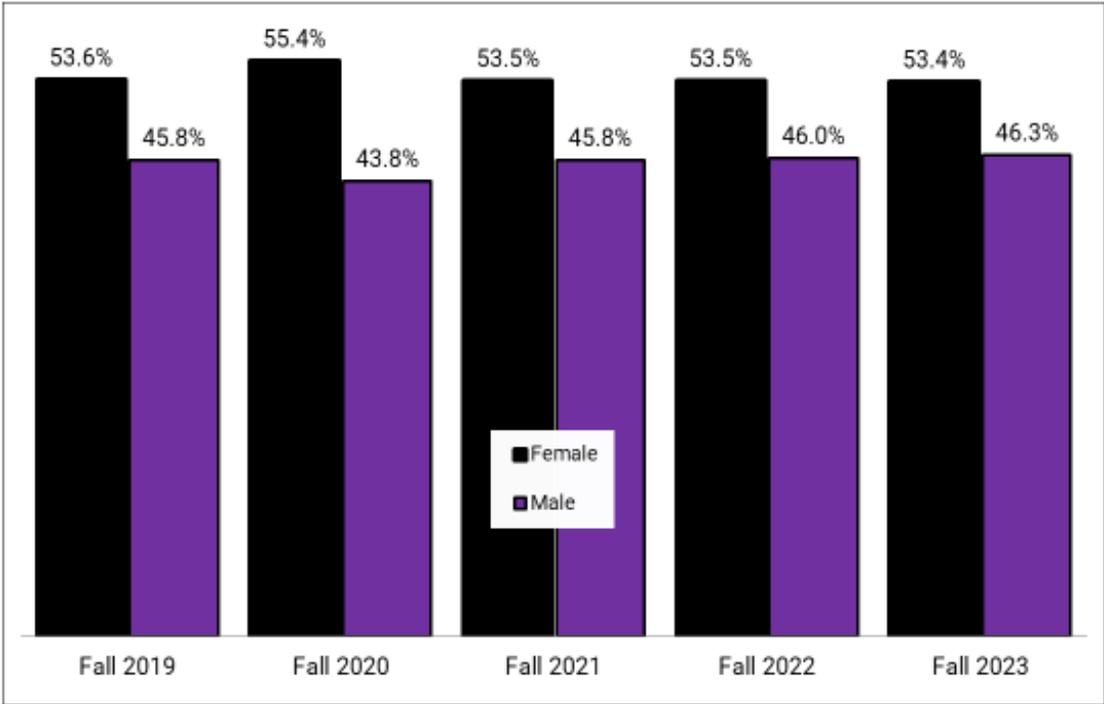


Enrollment Status: Part-time student enrollment has been consistently around two-thirds of the student body, increasing from 65.6 percent in fall 2019 to its highest proportional level of 67.2 percent in fall 2022. In fall 2023, the percentage of enrollment for part-time students returned to the mode of 65.6 percent. On average, students typically enroll for approximately nine load hours.

Table 5: Percentage of Enrollment by Enrollment Status					
	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023
Full-time	34.4%	34.4%	33.6%	32.8%	34.4%
Part-time	65.6%	65.6%	66.4%	67.2%	65.6%

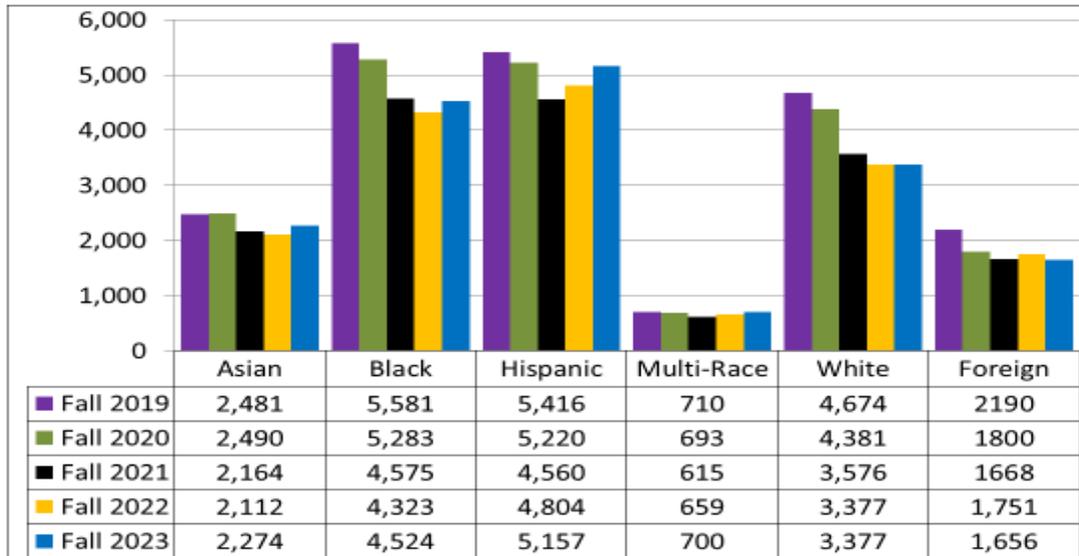
Gender: More than half of the students at the College are female. The percentage of female students drifts around 53.5 percent, with an outlier of 55.4 percent in fall 2020.

Figure 4: Percentage of Enrollment by Gender



Race/Ethnicity: Enrollment in fall 2023 continues to move upward and is attributed to more Asian (162), Black (201), Hispanic (353), and multi-race students (41) students. White student enrollment is unchanged, and international students declined (-143). For the first three years in the chart, Black students were the single largest student group. For the two most recent fall semesters, Hispanic student is the single largest student group at the College, followed by Black and White students.

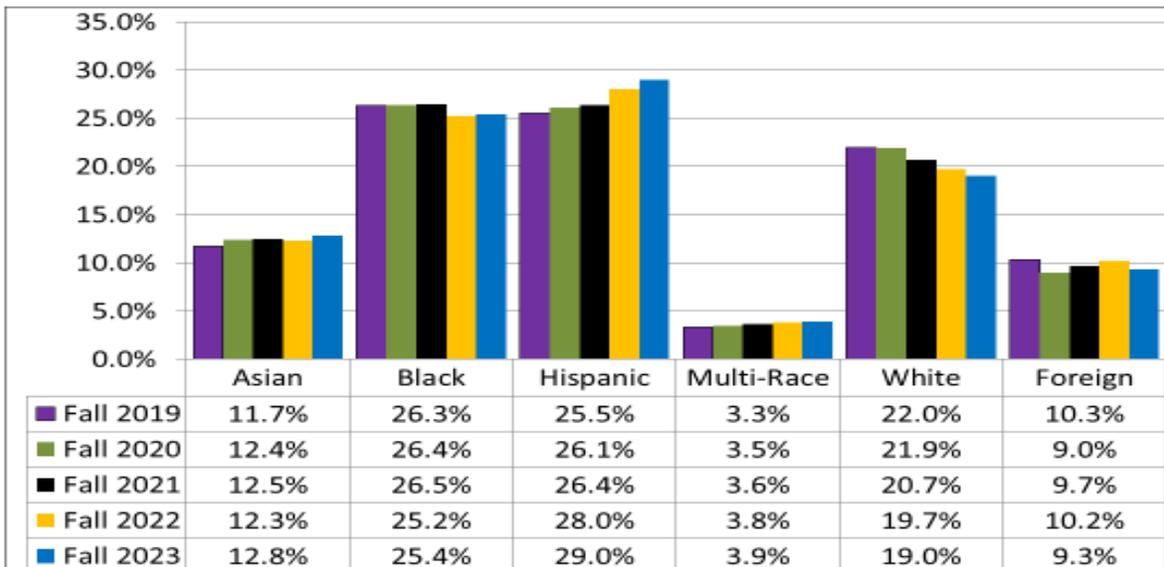
Figure 5: Fall 2019 to Fall 2023 – Number of Students by Race/Ethnicity*



*% of students for largest race/ethnic groups. Does not include Native American/Alaskan Native, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or Unknown

Figure 6 shows three observations of note: (1) For the second year, Hispanic students account for the largest single percentage of students at Montgomery College. (2) The percentage of white students declined each consecutive fall semester and is three percentage points below fall 2019. (3) The percentage of Asians fluctuated a little and is currently at its highest level of representation.

Figure 6: Fall 2019 to Fall 2023 – Percentage of Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity*



See appendices for additional information.

Key Takeaways:

- Montgomery College experienced a welcomed increase in students and bill hours in fall 2023, which is quite encouraging considering the substantial decrease in student enrollment and bill hours in the previous fall semesters. However, the College has quite a bit of ground to cover to return to at least the enrollment level experienced in the fall of 2019. The College must still consider potential financial consequences for its programs and budget.
- The race/ethnic demographic has been shifting for several years. While several race/ethnic student groups show increases in enrollment, Hispanic students currently constitute the single largest student block at the College. This student demographic shift is likely a reflection of the changing demographics in the county.
- The student body is one year younger than fall 2019 and consistently more female. As the percentage of students under 18 continues to climb, the percentage of students in the 25-29 and 30 and above age brackets continues to decline.

Appendix 1: Five-Year Trend on the Number of Students by Race Ethnicity					
	<u>Fall 2019</u>	<u>Fall 2020</u>	<u>Fall 2021</u>	<u>Fall 2022</u>	<u>Fall 2023</u>
American Indian / Alaskan Native	63	48	40	33	28
Asian	2,481	2,490	2,164	2,112	2,274
Black / African American	5,581	5,283	4,575	4,323	4,524
Foreign	2,190	1,800	1,668	1,751	1,656
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	55	42	29	30	21
Hispanic	5,416	5,220	4,560	4,804	5,157
Multi-Race	710	693	615	659	700
White	4,674	4,381	3,576	3,377	3,377
Unknown	90	80	57	48	43
Total	21,260	20,037	17,284	17,137	17,780

Appendix 2: Five-Year Trend on the Percentage of Students by Race Ethnicity					
	<u>Fall 2019</u>	<u>Fall 2020</u>	<u>Fall 2021</u>	<u>Fall 2022</u>	<u>Fall 2023</u>
American Indian / Alaskan Native	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Asian	11.7%	12.4%	12.5%	12.3%	12.8%
Black / African American	26.3%	26.4%	26.5%	25.2%	25.4%
Foreign	10.3%	9.0%	9.7%	10.2%	9.3%
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
Hispanic	25.5%	26.1%	26.4%	28.0%	29.0%
Multi-Race	3.3%	3.5%	3.6%	3.8%	3.9%
White	22.0%	21.9%	20.7%	19.7%	19.0%
Unknown	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%

Appendix 3

Market Share of Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) Graduates at MC Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023

MCPS Public High School	Number of MCPS Recent Graduates Enrolled at MC					Percentage of MCPS Recent Grads Enrolled at MC (Market Share or Draw Rate)					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Trend Line
Albert Einstein	117	108	87	96	92	30.2%	29.2%	19.3%	19.2%	21.6%	▲
Bethesda-Chevy Chase	58	56	54	57	72	11.6%	11.2%	10.0%	8.5%	12.5%	▲
Clarksburg	138	148	144	142	139	28.0%	26.7%	26.4%	22.3%	25.6%	▲
Col. Zadok Magruder	110	120	92	92	132	29.5%	31.7%	23.7%	26.4%	29.9%	▲
Damascus	68	69	65	67	70	22.9%	24.1%	19.3%	21.6%	20.4%	▼
Gaithersburg	195	142	115	141	152	35.8%	26.4%	21.8%	29.3%	28.9%	▬
James H. Blake	97	109	74	84	106	27.4%	25.7%	17.6%	18.9%	24.2%	▲
John F. Kennedy	113	99	87	95	106	30.2%	26.8%	20.7%	23.6%	28.9%	▲
Montgomery Blair	154	125	119	125	114	22.3%	16.8%	15.4%	16.3%	15.6%	▬
Northwest	161	170	129	172	166	27.5%	29.3%	19.7%	25.0%	26.9%	▲
Northwood	83	107	77	93	105	23.2%	25.2%	22.2%	23.7%	25.9%	▲
Paint Branch	134	128	95	71	113	28.6%	27.2%	20.6%	14.6%	23.6%	▲
Poolesville	32	28	26	17	25	10.8%	10.1%	8.8%	5.8%	7.5%	▲
Quince Orchard	97	91	88	81	82	20.4%	17.2%	15.9%	15.6%	16.1%	▬
Richard Montgomery	112	126	105	92	89	20.1%	19.9%	17.3%	15.6%	15.2%	▬
Rockville	77	100	84	90	84	23.5%	28.7%	25.3%	27.4%	26.3%	▼
Seneca Valley	88	86	72	80	115	36.2%	34.0%	25.7%	22.9%	28.4%	▲
Sherwood	91	96	74	75	49	19.4%	21.3%	14.5%	16.1%	11.1%	▼
Springbrook	115	100	74	65	68	29.0%	23.0%	19.8%	18.1%	17.2%	▬
Thomas S. Wootton	50	68	47	45	61	9.3%	13.0%	9.0%	9.2%	11.4%	▲
Walt Whitman	26	38	26	12	17	5.1%	7.6%	4.9%	2.4%	3.7%	▲
Walter Johnson	99	98	78	108	112	17.1%	16.4%	11.8%	15.3%	15.7%	▬
Watkins Mill	112	104	86	102	115	31.9%	27.4%	24.2%	26.6%	32.8%	▲
Wheaton	112	122	106	120	156	26.7%	25.5%	21.5%	23.7%	29.8%	▲
Winston Churchill	44	47	42	38	53	7.9%	8.3%	7.8%	6.7%	9.2%	▲
Total	2,483	2,485	2,046	2,160	2,393	22.3%	21.4%	17.2%	17.8%	19.9%	▲

- ▲ Increase more than one percentage point from previous year.
- ▼ Decrease more than one percentage point from previous year.
- ▬ Change within one percentage point from previous year.

[Scan the QR code to access the Tableau dashboard.](#)



MCPS High School list :
https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/0399.23_List_Of_Schools_102422.pdf