

**Subject:** COUNTY COUNCIL INFORMATION REQUEST  
**Date:** Friday, August 4, 2017 at 6:38:21 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Kathleen V. Hanks  
**To:** jfeldmark@howardcountymd.gov, cball@howardcountymd.gov,  
gfox@howardcountymd.gov, jtterra@howardcountymd.gov,  
jweinstein@howardcountymd.gov, mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov  
**CC:** Board Member's Email, Michael Martirano, Anissa Brown Dennis, Frank Eastham, Helen  
Nixon, James R. LeMon, Jahantab Siddiqui, Kevin Gilbert, Karalee Turner-Little, Mark Blom,  
Marcy L. Leonard, Patrick J. Saunderson, Theo Cramer, William J. Barnes  
**Attachments:** 08 04 2017 Free and Reduced-Priced Meals (FARMS) Data Differences.pdf

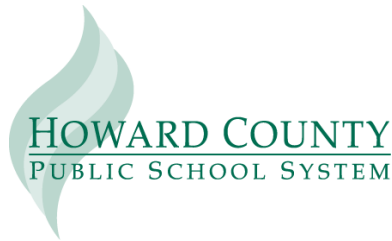
**COUNTY COUNCIL INFORMATION REQUEST**

Good Evening,

The attached memo regarding Free and Reduced-Priced Meals (FARMS) Data Differences is being forwarded for your information.

Kind regards,

Kathy Hanks  
Administrator  
Board of Education of Howard County  
Phone: 410-313-7194  
Fax: 410-313-6833



August 4, 2017

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**MEMORANDUM**

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Michael J. Martirano, Ed. D.  
Interim Superintendent

Subject: Free and Reduced-Priced Meals (FARMs) Data Differences

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you about the data differences used by School Planning and Food and Nutrition Services. As described at the joint Board of Education and County Council meeting on July 17, 2017, School Planning and Food and Nutrition Services do not recommend comparing FARMs data provided on the school profiles (Food and Nutrition Services) to the Attendance Area Adjustment reports (School Planning office).

The information provided is not comparable for three primary reasons:

1. At the elementary school level, the school profile includes Pre-K with the FARMs percentages, if students receive a lunch by Food and Nutrition services. School Planning uses K-12 data;
2. School Planning analyzes students who “live in” attendance areas versus Food and Nutrition Services reports those students who attend the school. For purposes of School Planning, out of district students (those who live in one attendance area, but go to another attendance area) are counted within their home school because School Planning has no way of predicting student reassignments; and
3. The time in which the data is pulled from our student database (April versus October and April versus end of year).

However, after speaking with community members, staff was better able to assess the concerns presented regarding the FARMs data used for the Attendance Area Adjustments. Therefore, we are further investigating other possible underlying reason(s) for the differences in numbers. Staff is researching every input from Synergy, the Geographic Information System (GIS) and our redistricting software to see how the data is aggregated and reported.

We will continue to keep the Board up to date as this research progresses.

Copy to: Executive Staff  
Board of Education Office

**Subject:** COUNTY COUNCIL INFORMATION REQUEST  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at 12:07:42 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Kathleen V. Hanks  
**To:** jfeldmark@howardcountymd.gov, cball@howardcountymd.gov,  
gfox@howardcountymd.gov, jtterra@howardcountymd.gov,  
jweinstein@howardcountymd.gov, mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov  
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rafiu\_ighilie@hcpss.org  
**Attachments:** 08 09 2017 FARMS Info.pdf

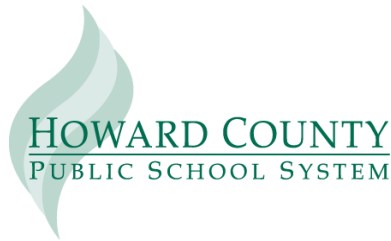
## COUNTY COUNCIL INFORMATION REQUEST

Good Morning,

Attached is information that was requested at the recent Board of Education/County Council Quarterly Meeting.

Kind regards,

Kathy Hanks  
Administrator  
Board of Education of Howard County  
Phone: 410-313-7194  
Fax: 410-313-6833



August 9, 2017

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**MEMORANDUM**

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Michael J. Martirano, Ed. D.  
Interim Superintendent

Subject: Free and Reduced-Priced Meals (FARMs) Data Differences

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of an update about the Free and Reduced-Priced Meals (FARMs) data differences used by the Office of School Planning and the Office of Food and Nutrition Services. In addition to what was previously described as data differences (e.g. including Pre-K, dates that the data was pulled and live-in versus attend) School Planning has been investigating other possible underlying reasons for the differences in numbers reported in the Plan Assessment. An additional reason for the discrepancy is the issuance of a nine-digit student identification number for new students in Synergy. The code language written for School Planning's redistricting software uses six to seven digits; therefore, these new students were excluded from the analysis.

The new student data has been incorporated into the redistricting software and the Plan Assessment. Attendance area adjustment proposals are assessed by individual school, by level (elementary, middle and high) and overall (all schools). Individual schools are assessed based on the percentage of students who participate in the FARMs program moving closer to or farther from the countywide average (for that school level). The percentages for the current and proposed boundaries were all updated (see Table 1). Due to the new student data, there were changes to all of the individual schools' FARMs percentages.

School Planning reassessed the Feasibility Study with the additional student data, and found that at the individual school level, four elementary, four middle and three high schools' assessments changed (see Table 2).

The effect on the assessment by level and overall was updated; however, even with the additional student data, the overall assessment remains negligible due to the method of calculation. If the standard deviation was reduced by 25 percent or more, the measure is assessed as a strength. If the standard deviation is increased by 25 percent or more, the measure is assessed as a weakness. In other words, as proposed in the Feasibility Study, the changes to the school boundaries do not significantly change the standard deviation.

For further questions or information, please contact Renée M. Kamen, School Planning Manager, 410-313-7184.

Table 1: Revised Assessment of FARMs data

Policy reference	IV.B.3.b		
	Balanced Farm %		
Elementary Schools	Before	After	Chg
Atholton ES	15%	15%	=
Bellows Spring ES	15%	17%	+
Bollman Bridge ES	46%	44%	+
Bryant Woods ES	56%	50%	+
Bushy Park ES	4%	4%	=
Centennial Lane ES	5%	5%	=
Clarksville ES	1%	2%	=
Clemens Crossing ES	9%	23%	+
Cradlerock ES	54%	53%	=
Dayton Oaks ES	5%	4%	=
Deep Run ES	53%	58%	-
Ducketts Lane ES	40%	48%	-
Elkridge ES	26%	26%	=
Forest Ridge ES	30%	29%	=
Fulton ES	4%	4%	=
Gorman Crossing ES	18%	18%	=
Guilford ES	53%	51%	+
Hammond ES	24%	24%	=
Hollifield Station ES	23%	23%	=
Ilchester ES	4%	4%	=
Jeffers Hill ES	34%	34%	=
Laurel Woods ES	57%	58%	=
Lisbon ES	13%	13%	=
Longfellow ES	47%	51%	-
Manor Woods ES	7%	7%	=
New ES #42	0%	38%	+
Northfield ES	6%	6%	=
Phelps Luck ES	63%	63%	=
Pointers Run ES	3%	3%	=
Rockburn ES	17%	7%	-
Running Brook ES	48%	40%	+
St Johns Lane ES	10%	9%	=
Stevens Forest ES	67%	46%	+
Swansfield ES	56%	55%	=
Talbott Springs ES	50%	74%	-
Thunder Hill ES	21%	21%	=
Triadelphia Ridge ES	3%	5%	+
Veterans ES	24%	24%	=
Waterloo ES	26%	24%	+
Waverly ES	4%	4%	=
West Friendship ES	5%	5%	=
Worthington ES	5%	5%	=
<b>Overall ES</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>24%</b>	
Strengthened		<b>+</b>	<b>10</b>
Weakened		<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>
Negligible		<b>=</b>	<b>27</b>
Mean			
StdDev	20.8	20.7	
<b>NEGLIGIBLE</b>			

Middle Schools	Balanced Farm %		
	Before	After	Chg
Bonnie Branch MS	27%	26%	=
Burleigh Manor MS	8%	8%	=
Clarksville MS	2%	3%	=
Dunloggin MS	16%	17%	=
Elkridge Landing MS	15%	14%	=
Ellicott Mills MS	10%	9%	=
Folly Quarter MS	3%	3%	=
Glenwood MS	6%	5%	=
Hammond MS	18%	18%	=
Harpers Choice MS	46%	51%	-
Lake Elkhorn MS	47%	44%	+
Lime Kiln MS	3%	3%	=
Mayfield Woods MS	34%	37%	-
Mount View MS	4%	3%	=
Murray Hill MS	37%	33%	+
Oakland Mills MS	49%	51%	-
Patapsco MS	16%	18%	+
Patuxent Valley MS	34%	37%	-
Thomas Viaduct MS	46%	48%	-
Wilde Lake MS	43%	40%	+
<b>Overall MS</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>22%</b>	
Strengthened		<b>+</b>	<b>4</b>
Weakened		<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>
Negligible		<b>=</b>	<b>11</b>
Mean			
StdDev	16.8	17.2	
<b>NEGLIGIBLE</b>			

High Schools	Balanced Farm %		
	Before	After	Chg
Atholton HS	9%	34%	-
Centennial HS	12%	11%	=
Glenelg HS	4%	3%	=
Hammond HS	37%	25%	+
Howard HS	14%	12%	-
Long Reach HS	37%	30%	+
Marriotts Ridge HS	5%	7%	+
Mt Hebron HS	16%	18%	+
Oakland Mills HS	47%	49%	-
Reservoir HS	28%	28%	=
River Hill HS	2%	2%	=
Wilde Lake HS	40%	41%	=
<b>Overall HS</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>21%</b>	
Strengthened		<b>+</b>	<b>4</b>
Weakened		<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>
Negligible		<b>=</b>	<b>5</b>
Mean			
StdDev	15.3	14.6	
<b>NEGLIGIBLE</b>			

All Schools	Before	After	Chg
<b>Overall HCPSS</b>			
Strengthened		<b>+</b>	<b>18</b>
Weakened		<b>-</b>	<b>13</b>
Negligible		<b>=</b>	<b>43</b>
Mean			
StdDev	19.0	19.0	

Overall Assessment: **NEGLIGIBLE**

Assessment Criteria	Standard Deviation reduced by 25% or more = STRENGTH; increased by 25% or more = WEAKNESS; otherwise Negligible
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Key

- + change moves population of attendance area closer to the countywide average
- = change in population of attendance area is negligible
- change moves population of attendance area further from the countywide average

Table 2: Changes in Individual School FARMs Assessments

COMPARISON	Original Assessment			Revised 8/7/17		
	Balanced Farm %			Balanced Farm %		
Elementary Schools	Before	After	Chg	Before	After	Chg
Elementary Schools						
<b>Deep Run ES</b>	40%	41%	=	53%	58%	-
<b>Guilford ES</b>	39%	38%	=	53%	51%	+
<b>Laurel Woods ES</b>	33%	35%	-	57%	58%	=
<b>Triadelphia Ridge ES</b>	2%	3%	=	3%	5%	+
Middle Schools						
<b>Murray Hill MS</b>	26%	25%	=	37%	33%	+
<b>Oakland Mills MS</b>	11%	13%	+	49%	51%	-
<b>Patapsco MS</b>	26%	27%	=	16%	18%	+
<b>Thomas Viaduct MS</b>	32%	30%	+	46%	48%	-
High Schools						
<b>Howard HS</b>	11%	10%	=	14%	12%	-
<b>Marriotts Ridge HS</b>	4%	5%	=	5%	7%	+
<b>Mt Hebron HS</b>	12%	13%	=	16%	18%	+

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