

A photograph of Route 40 Elementary School. The building is a two-story structure with a brick lower level and a tan metal upper level. The name "ROUTE 40 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL" is mounted on the tan section. Large windows are decorated with colorful letters and numbers. The school is surrounded by a green lawn and a paved area.

ROUTE 40 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# Route 40 Elementary School Advisory Committee

School Year 2022-2023

# Consideration Items



- Student Enrollment Trends
- Building Conditions
- Utility Costs
- Facility Study
- Transportation
- Educational Programs
- Racial Composition
- Financial Consideration
- Student Relocation
- Community Impact

# Enrollment Trends



ROUTE 40 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## **Route 40 Elementary**

**Enrollment projected to be steady**

Current Enrollment: 122

Current Facility Use: 64.2%

2029 Projected Enrollment: 123

2029 Projected Facility Use: 64.7%

## **Grantsville Elementary**

**Enrollment projected to decrease**

Current Enrollment: 171

Current Facility Use: 49.7% (45%)

2029 Projected Enrollment: 138

2029 Projected Facility Use: 40% (36.3%)

## **Grantsville Elementary if Route 40 Elementary is closed:**

Projected 2024-2025 Enrollment: 307

Estimated Facility Use: 89% (81%)

2029 Projected Facility Use: 75.9% (68.7%)

\*\*\*Enrollment trends presented to the Garrett County BOE in February 2022 presentation.\*\*\*

\*\*\*Enrollment based on PreK-5 Grade Model\*\*\*



# Enrollment Trends

## Other Trend Data:

- **Garrett County Commissioners**
  - Published the [Garrett County Economic Development Strategic Plan](#) (Draft, January 2023)
    - Indicates school-age population predictions
    - Increase of approximately 250 school-age children by 2030
    - Increase of approximately 800 school-age children by 2045

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	% Change 2016- 2020	% Change 2020- 2045
Total Population	29,677	29,516	29,376	29,235	29,155	29,698	30,254	30,506	30,756	30,997	-2%	6%
Under 5	1,428	1,403	1,436	1,423	1,439	1,445	1,508	1,585	1,611	1,627	1%	13%
5 to 19 years	5,231	4,978	4,888	4,742	4,608	4,904	4,862	5,009	5,219	5,404	-12%	17%
20 to 34 years	4,828	4,870	4,830	4,765	4,791	4,559	4,772	4,851	4,719	4,659	-1%	-3%
35 to 54 years	7,754	7,560	7,370	7,216	7,074	6,951	6,953	6,962	7,210	7,515	-9%	6%
55 to 64 years	4,493	4,579	4,625	4,653	4,716	4,524	4,155	3,904	3,820	3,838	5%	-19%
65 years and over	5,943	6,126	6,227	6,436	6,527	7,315	8,004	8,195	8,177	7,954	10%	22%

Source: Maryland Department of Planning



# Enrollment Trends

## Other Trend Data:

- **Garrett County Commissioners**
  - Published the [Garrett County Comprehensive Plan \(Nov. 2022\)](#)
    - The Casselman River watershed is projected to add approximately 288 housing units through 2040. *Pages 2-14; A-5*
    - The plan indicates optimistic plans for population growth in the Grantsville Area and Casselman River Watershed.
      - Plans for affordable housing with access to I-68 and the US-219 project.
      - Plans for additional water needs and upgraded wastewater treatment facilities due to projected growth.
- **Planned and anticipated population growth in the current Grantsville and Route 40 school districts.**
- **State's Attorney Christian Mash** - "It seems to me like Grantsville is going to be the growth place in the county," he said. "It has a great reputation, so I'm sure you guys want to continue that." *stated at Grantsville Town Council Meeting 2/28/2023*

# Enrollment Trends

## **Potential Impacts:**

- Facility utilization
  - Historically, when Garrett County has closed schools, it has caused unanticipated overcrowding in receiving schools that has led to additional expenses of portable classrooms.
  - If Grantsville becomes overcrowded, Mr. Richard Wesolowski indicated that students in the current Grantsville district could be redistricted to eliminate the overcrowding.
- Expressed intentions to move to non-public schooling or relocation if Route 40 Elementary is closed.
- Pre-k enrollment spots for students in the Route 40 Elementary district.
- Daycare potential at Route 40 Elementary can create pre-k (3) partnership that aligns with the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

## Route Forty Enrollment Analysis

### Historical Enrollment

	2011	2017	2022	2029*
Garrett County Public Schools	4,077	3,809	3,500	3,339
Route Forty Elementary	129	140	122	123
Grantsville Elementary	237	203	171	138

*NOTE: This enrollment figure includes PreKindergarten & 2029 is Maryland Department of Planning projection.*

### SY2022-23

<b>Current at Route Forty Elem</b>	<b>PK</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Average</b>
Current Enrollment	15	17	15	26	14	23	12	122
Number of Classroom Teachers	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	7.00
Student to Teacher Ratio	15.00	17.00	15.00	26.00	14.00	23.00	12.00	17.43

<b>Current at Grantsville Elem</b>	<b>PK</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Average</b>
Current Enrollment	21	25	24	23	26	26	26	171
Number of Classroom Teachers	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.30	8.30
Student to Teacher Ratio	10.50	25.00	24.00	23.00	26.00	26.00	20.00	20.60

### SY2023-2024

<b>Projected Consolidated</b>	<b>PK</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Average</b>
Projected Enrollment	35	47	48	39	48	41	48	306
Number of Classroom Teachers	2.00	2.00	2.30	2.00	2.30	2.00	2.30	14.90
Student to Teacher Ratio	17.50	23.50	20.87	19.50	20.87	20.50	20.87	20.54

**Not Class Sizes-** These class sizes will be 24 students each.  
 $\frac{2}{3}$  of each day the student to teacher ratio is 24:1



# Conditions of School



## Route 40 Elementary School

Built: 1956

Complete Renovation: 2003

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- 6/30/2022 Facilities Inventory gave School a "Good" rating.
- IAC Facility Maintenance Assessment Scored as "Not Adequate" 65.64% Failed Items
  - Mr. Wesolowski indicated that this is in part due to the HVAC/Air Conditioning upgrades considered necessary upgrades.
  - Mrs. Alison Sweitzer indicated that the State of MD Healthy Schools Fund is assisting school districts with HVAC upgrades

## **Facility Opportunities:**

- **Grade Band Alignment**
  - If the Board of Education members vote to realign the grade bands, Route 40 Elementary has an optimal location for 6th grade **without** additional construction.
- **Blueprint for Maryland's Future**
  - Route 40 Elementary has space for a daycare that could be accredited and partnered with the school system, as outlined in Pillar 1 of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

## **Facility Needs:**

- **Boiler Replacement/HVAC**
  - Been on the CIP since 2017
    - Design and contingency in FY 2019
    - Project Completion FY 2020
  - Maintenance has been deferred multiple times with current project completion set for FY 2025
  - Current Estimated Local Cost \$450,000



## **Facility Needs:**

- **Roof Repairs**
  - Project Completion FY 2025
  - Maintenance has been deferred 1 year
  - Current Estimated Local Cost \$1,000,000

## **Facility Needs:**

- **Parking Lot Curb Replacement and Resurfacing**
  - Slated Project Completion FY 2025
  - Estimated Local Cost \$200,000

## **Facility Needs:**

- **Retaining Wall at rear of building**
  - Not on CIP because it can be covered in the operating budget.
  - Mr. Wesolowski indicated the most recent estimate to fix the wall is \$25,000.
  - This problem was identified in the 2015 Educational Facilities Master Plan.



# **Grantsville Elementary School**

- **State Rated Capacity: 380 (based on building plan of PreK-6)**
  - Source: Mr. Wesolowski
- **Space to accommodate 2 classrooms per grade**
- **Space to accommodate 6th grade, should grade banding be approved.**
  - Requires **additional construction** to create 2, 6th grade classrooms.
- **Currently art and music share a classroom at Grantsville Elementary.**
  - Grade Band floor plan shows a solution with a Classroom for Music - exact location TBD by building Principal
  - Solution stated at Grade Band Alignment Meeting is “Art or Music on a cart”
  - **Both solutions are not equitable** to current Route 40 Elementary or the proposed Northern Elementary School.

# Utility Costs

A photograph of the exterior of Route 40 Elementary School. The building features a tan-colored metal roof and brick walls. The name "ROUTE 40 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL" is mounted on the brick wall in large, white, capital letters.

ROUTE 40 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## FY2022 Utilities for Route Forty Elementary

Internet	2,306.00
Elevator Phone	658.07
Heat	29,728.00
Electricity	25,639.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 58,331.07

9/30/2021 Enrollment	122.00
Cost per student	\$ 478.12

# Fixed Cost Expenses

Route Forty Fixed Cost Expenses to be saved:

for 2/28/2023 as of 6/30/2022

Category	Activity	Object	Amount
201	163 Utility - Internet		2,306
202	181 MFD - Copier		3,917
202	181 Substitute for Principal		971
205	216 License - Destiny + ProQuest		1,627
205	229 License - School Pace + OG		5,819
205	232 License for iReady Math & Reading Interventions		7,310
210	600 Operations (less salary & fringe)		76,870
211	700 Maintenance		22,084
	School Budget Allocation		4,164
			<b>\$ 125,068</b>



# Facility Study



- **No specific facility study has been completed about the closure of Route 40 Elementary School or about the Grade-banding proposals.**
  - No modeling of money reappropriated with new funding rules.
  - No modeling of cost savings or projections for educational programs.
- **Since 2011 there have been several Needs Assessment and Facilities Master Plans**
  - Completed by private firms
  - Paid tens of thousands of dollars for these studies
  - Followed very few if any of the recommendations in the past 12 years.
- **Closures actually made have not addressed the scope of the problem.**

# Transportation



- Route 40 Elementary School currently has 3 bus routes that solely service elementary students.
- Mr. Wesolowski provided 2 options for bussing of students from Route 40 District to Grantsville.
  - Scenario A = No change to bussing
  - Scenario B = Readjust all bus routes in Finzel area

## **Transportation Implications - Scenario A (No change)**

- Students who would attend Route 40 Elementary School will have their own busses.
  - Adds 10-15 minutes to commute for current Route 40 Elementary students.
  - Busses service only pre-k to grade 5 students.
  - Busses will arrive as a “second wave” at Grantsville Elementary School in the morning as these busses do not transport secondary students.
  - Busses will pick up first in the afternoon.
- Students who were districted to attend Grantsville will ride pre-k to grade 12 busses.

## **Transportation Implications - Scenario A**

- This could cause backlash and divisive feelings among families.
- Longer bus rides.
  - More behavior issues.
- Increased transportation costs for the county due to increased mileage.
- Childcare issues for parents in the Route 40 district.
  - Some families rely on older siblings for before and after school care.
  - Different bus times for children at different levels would not allow for this.

## **Transportation Implications - Scenario B (Adjust Routes)**

- All bus routes in the Finzel area will be readjusted with all students on pre-k through 12th grade busses
  - Total ride time estimated to be 45-55 minutes (varies depending on residence).
  - Students to arrive home 20 minutes later in the evening due to unload and load time at Grantsville Elementary.
  - Families with multiple age children will have all children on the same bus.
- Modest cost savings for GCPS
  - How much money would be saved?
  - Reduction in time and mileage for the bus contractors.
  - Savings occur without losing bus contractors.



# **Transportation Implications - Inclement Weather**

- Special Closing of Route 40 District
  - There have been occasions when just the Route 40 District was closed due to inclement weather.
  - Mr. Wesolowski indicated that if it is not safe for one student, then none will go.
  - This could cause increased disruption to all Northern End schools as instead of just Route 40 area students not attending, it would be the new Grantsville Area District not attending.
    - Potential Impact: Up to half of all students in the Northern End not attending school due to inclement weather near the county's border.

# Educational Programs



## Instructional Program

- Both schools offer the same instructional programming and resources.
- Grantsville Elementary School adds supports for students that Route 40 Elementary does not have.
  - Full-time Nurse
  - Full-time Behavior Coach
  - Additional Intervention Teachers
  - Judy Center Support
  - Title I Support

## **Educational Program Considerations:**

- Two classrooms per grade at Grantsville could benefit from departmentalization opportunities currently not available at either school.
- The closure of Route 40 Elementary School could have increased instructional coaching opportunities for Grantsville Elementary School's teachers.
- Two classrooms per grade at Grantsville Elementary School would offer collaborative planning and professional learning for the teachers, aligning to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

## **Educational Program Considerations:**

- **Can Grantsville afford to maintain the additional support positions?**
  - Applying weighted student funding to the FY 2023 budget, Grantsville Elementary School would be over-allocated by \$681,000.
  - The addition of the students from Route 40 Elementary could change the future status of Grantsville's Title I rank/status, causing a reduction in Title I funds.
    - This could impact Grantsville's ability to provide a full-time nurse, a Judy Center, additional intervention teachers.

## Educational Program Considerations:

- **Can Grantsville afford to maintain the additional support positions?**
  - Mrs. Alison Sweitzer indicated that it currently cannot be determined if Grantsville Elementary School would be over-allocated with the additional students from Route 40 Elementary School.
    - If the **consolidated** Grantsville Elementary School would be over-allocated, program offerings or staffing positions would be affected.

## **Educational Program Considerations:**

- **Can Route 40 Elementary School continue to afford to maintain its positions and programs?**
  - Applying weighted student funding to the FY 2023 budget, Route 40 Elementary School would be over-allocated by \$200,627.
  - If the school would be over-allocated, program offerings or staffing positions could be affected at Route 40 Elementary School.
- **There is no model provided to show that, even with consolidation, students at Grantsville Elementary School or Route 40 Elementary would be offered the same educational opportunities afforded to them currently.**

# Racial Composition



Racial Composition is not a factor that is influenced by school closure.

	Total Enrollment	American Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander	African-American	Caucasian	Hispanic	Unclassified
Route 40	124	0	0	0	124	0	0
Grantsville	166	0	0	2	162	1	1

\*\*From School Improvement Plan of each respective school.



# Financial Considerations



## School-Level Funding as Outlined by State Law

- The Maryland Blueprint for Education mandates that a minimum of 75% of base student funding follow the student to the school level.
- All schools must pay all costs of running the school including:
  - Salaries of all employees, including employer tax portions, insurance, and pension matches.
  - Utilities
  - Supplies

## Scenario: Student-Weighted Funding with Current Populations

Revenue vs. Expense Analysis with Weighted Student Funding Methodology Applied					
Garrett County Public Schools					
Unrestricted Funding Actuals as of 6/30/2022					
		System-wide		Grantsville	Route Forty
<b>Enrollment:</b>		<b>9/30/2020</b>	<b>9/30/2021</b>		
Actual K-12 Enrollment		3,489.75	3,348.25	146	106
<b>Revenues</b>		<b>Totals</b>	<b>Non-Direct</b>		
75% Model		52,111,954	17,202,603	1,599,351	1,155,357
<b>Expenses:</b>					
Total Actual Expenses		51,796,729	12,798,487	2,280,563	1,355,984
<b>Overallocated (Underallocated)</b>		<b>(315,225)</b>	<b>(4,404,116)</b>	<b>681,212</b>	<b>200,627</b>
<b>Overallocated (Underallocated) Percentage</b>			<b>-26%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>17%</b>

# Financial Considerations

- The scenario was created using current enrollment and the FY'23 school budgets.
- The scenario indicates that Grantsville Elementary School and Route 40 Elementary School would have been given more budget money than mandated by law.
- If the funding laws would have been implemented for the 2022-2023 school year, Grantsville Elementary would have been allocated \$681,212 too much.
- If the funding laws would have been implemented for the 2022-2023 school year, Route 40 Elementary would have been allocated \$200,627 too much.
- Both schools are financially overallocated.

# Financial Considerations

## Enrollment

- **Affects base amount of budget**
  - Per pupil allotments and demonstrated student needs also alter base of budget
- **Projections show substantial decreases, depending on the model.**
  - This may cause further inability to fund positions or programs.
  - Inequity among resources offered at other schools.
- **Enrollment may further decline beyond expectations.**
  - Parents expressing interest in non-public education
    - Private Schooling Opportunities
    - Home Schooling Opportunities

# Financial Considerations

## Title I

- **Grantsville Elementary School**
  - Title I School
  - FARMS Rate: 45.93%
- **Route 40 Elementary School**
  - Not Title I
  - FARMS Rate: 42.86%
- **Combined Populations**
  - 44.5% FARMS
- 40% is the minimum eligibility under Title I for finding.
- Combining Schools could change the rank among Title 1 Schools in the County, changing funding for Grantsville Elementary School, leaving it over-allocated.

\*\*\*Percentages provided for FARMS Rates from each respective school's SIP which reflect data collected as of 10.31.2022.

# Student Relocation



- All students in the Route 40 Elementary School district would attend Grantsville Elementary School.
- Some parents have indicated that the closure of Route 40 Elementary School would cause them to seek alternative non-public education or to relocate.
- If the school would become overcrowded, students in the current Grantsville district would be redistricted to other Elementary school(s).

# Community Impact



## School Closure - NOT a consolidation

- **It is evident that Grantsville and Route 40 Elementary Schools are overallocated financially.**
  - Both need more enrollment to support programs.
  - It has been perceived that only Route 40 Elementary is not financially viable.
- **This should be a consolidation partnership** and presented as an opportunity to blend as Friendsville and Accident may potentially do and like Broad Ford and Southern Middle will as part of the overarching grade-banding plan.
  - New School Name
  - New School Colors
  - Blending of Staff
  - Blending of Transportation
- Grantsville Elementary School students are already in the school.
- Route 40 Elementary School students will be “new” kids.

# Impact on Students

- Constant change during their education.
  - This is the 1st year that this year's third grade class has had a "normal" year.
  - This is the 1st year that this year's second grade class has had a "normal" year.
  - This is the 1st year that this year's first grade class has had a "normal" year.
  - This year's 4th grade class has not had a normal year since kindergarten.
- This county has made a lot of progress as shown in academic testing results in recovering from COVID.
  - More change will not improve the trend.
- The mental health of the students have been affected.
  - Increased anxiety from COVID and readjusting to "normal" education.
  - Increased anxiety of the fear of "their" school closing and having to go to a new school.



# Impact on Students

- Girls on the Run
  - Grades 3-5
  - Starting Hero Boys (similar program for boys)
- North 40 First Lego League Team
  - Composed of students whose elementary school foundation began at Route 40
  - 2022-2023 MD State Champions Finalist / Garrett County Qualifier Champion
  - 2021-2022 Razorback Invitational Finalist / MD State Champions Finalist /Global Project Innovation Finalist / Garrett County Qualifier Champion

# Impact on Families

- Losing the potential for a daycare facility in the area.
- Fewer pre-k enrollment spots for those within the Route 40 Elementary district.
  - The number of pre-k spots are the same, but they are at the Grantsville location. Some of the families in the Route 40 district may not get spots that they otherwise would if Route 40 Elementary is open.
  - Increases family hardship for childcare.
- Coins for Caring
  - Christmas coin drive to give back to local families
  - Tied in with PBIS/Character Traits (Caring and Giving)
  - Raises \$1000 or more each year
  - Provides Christmas gifts for students in our school

# Impact on Families

- PTO/PIT Activities
  - Every year the PTO/PIT sponsor activities for students and their families
    - Halloween Social
    - Santa's Workshop
    - Family Movie Night
    - Annual Red Cross Blood Drive
    - Spring Easter Egg Hunt
    - Family Game Night
    - School Camp Fire
  - These events provide high school age students the opportunity to earn service learning hours needed for graduation

## Impact on Community

- Route 40 Elementary is the polling place for the community residents.
- Grantsville Little League teams use the gym for early spring and inclement weather practice sessions.
- Blood drive sponsored by Parent Involvement Team.
- The Long Stretch 5K
  - Over 100 participants last year plus additional family and community members
  - Community and High School student volunteers

# Impact on Community

- Divine Mercy Parish, Frostburg
  - Shoe drive to benefit schools local to the parish
  - Route 40 Elementary received 60 pairs of shoes from the drive
  - Distributed to students who need them
  - Route 40 Elementary has been able to share the wealth, providing shoes to students in other Garrett County Schools upon request of student services staff.
- Grantsville, Accident, and Friendsville have town centers. The community encompassed in the Route 40 Elementary School district has the **school** as the center for our children.
- Relationship with FSU and interns
- Loss of employment opportunity for potential daycare business.

“Education is the kindling of a flame,  
not the filling of a vessel.”

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- Socrates



As you are considering the closure of Route 40 Elementary, consider the following:

**Not enough information has been provided.**

- Will Grantsville Elementary still be over-allocated if the schools are combined??
- How much is really saved by closing Route 40 Elementary School??
- What cuts would be made to resolve the over funding??
- Will our children be given equitable opportunities to others in the county??



As you are considering the closure of Route 40 Elementary, consider the following:

**Not enough information has been provided.**

- Which enrollment and community growth data are accurate??
- How many students will leave Garrett County Public Schools if Route 40 Elementary School closes??
- If Route 40 Elementary School is closed, will the same community opportunities exist for our students and families??



# Final point

There are currently too many unanswered questions and unknowns regarding the closing of Route 40. Without having accurate enrollment and financial data, the only certainty to closing Route 40 is that the students will lose any stability they have finally regained after years of fluctuation.



# Annual Fire Safety Activities with Eastern Garrett VFD





# Annual Halloween Parade and Social



# Annual Veteran's Day Breakfast



# PBIS Assembly





# Annual Christmas Program



# Family Movie Night



# PTO/PIT Easter Egg Hunt





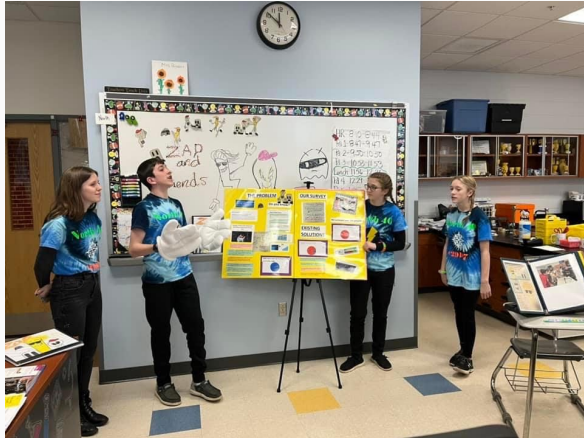
# Girls on the Run at The Long Stretch 5K



# North 40 Lego Team (2022-2023)



**THEY PRESENTED TO STATE  
SUPERINTENDENT  
CHOU DHURY 3/2/2023 AND  
HAVE BEEN INVITED TO  
PRESENT TO THE MARYLAND  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**





# “Education is the key to the vitality and sustainability of our community.”

- GCPS Vision

