

## Annual School Test Guidelines and Updated FY2021 Annual School Test Results

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### Description and Summary

On November 16, 2020, the County Council unanimously adopted the 2020-2024 Growth and Infrastructure Policy, formerly known as the Subdivision Staging Policy. The newly adopted resolution made substantial changes to the school segment of the policy, including how the Annual School Test is administered. The policy requires the Planning Board to adopt Annual School Test Guidelines and certify the results of the Annual School Test, which must also be accompanied by a School Utilization Report.

### Annual School Test Guidelines

In the past, the methodology used to conduct each Annual School Test has been approved concurrently with the Planning Board's approval and certification of the school test results. To increase transparency in this process, the new Growth and Infrastructure Policy requires the Planning Department to approve Annual School Test Guidelines that document the methodology and explains the various rules and standards used.

The Guidelines address the following procedures related to the Annual School Test and its application:

- Modifying MCPS enrollment and capacity projections for test purposes
- Establishing a school service area's adequacy status
- Calculating a school service area's adequacy ceilings
- Calculating and applying student generation rates
- Estimating the enrollment impacts of a development application
- Calculating applicable Utilization Premium Payment factors for new and amended residential development applications

See Attachment A for proposed version 1.0 of the Annual School Test Guidelines.

### Updated FY2021 Annual School Test

Under the new Growth and Infrastructure Policy, the Annual School Test only evaluates individual school facilities, and schools are tested for their projected utilization levels 4-years in the future. When a school is found to exceed certain adequacy levels, its school service area is placed in a Utilization Premium Payment tier according to the school's projected level of utilization.

Planning staff prepared updated FY2021 Annual School Test results according to the newly adopted Growth and Infrastructure Policy and the guidelines discussed above. Once certified by the Planning Board, the updated school test results will take effect on January 1, 2021.

See Attachment B for the updated FY2021 Annual School Test Results.

### **FY2021 School Utilization Report**

The new Growth and Infrastructure Policy also requires Montgomery Planning to prepare a School Utilization Report at the time of the Annual School Test. The Report is to consist of a Countywide Report and Individual Schools Report and provide supplemental information about the county's public school facilities from both perspectives.

The FY2021 School Utilization Report is a pilot of such effort, and may be improved in future years with additional data. Housing trends and related information will be considered as possible, and staff welcomes further input and feedback on the Report's contents from the Board.

See Attachment C for the FY2021 School Utilization Report.

### **Staff Recommendations**

Staff recommends that the Planning Board:

- Adopt version 1.0 of the Annual School Test Guidelines.
- Review and certify the updated results of the FY2021 Annual School Test.
- Receive the accompanied FY2021 School Utilization Report.

### **Attachments**

Attachment A – Annual School Test Guidelines v1.0

Attachment B – Updated FY2021 Annual School Test Results

Attachment C – FY2021 School Utilization Report