

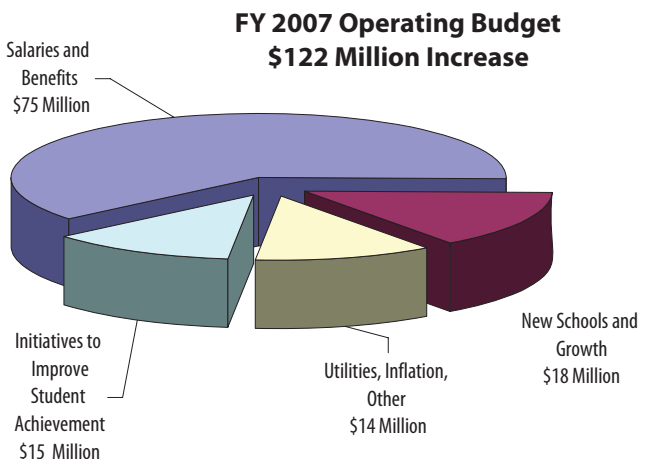
FY 2007 Operating Budget Recommendations

**Dr. Jerry D. Weast
Superintendent**

◆ December 14, 2005 ◆

Recommended Initiatives to Improve Student Achievement

- Expand full-day kindergarten to 17 more schools for total of 110 schools
- Strengthen special education at secondary level
- Lower class size in high school general education classes with special education students
- Support middle school reform
- Increase supports in high school
- Expand IB and gifted programs
- Increase foreign language translation services
- Expand Study Circles program
- Add 15 elementary assistant principals
- Improve technology supports for instruction
- Enhance violence prevention programs
- Expand program to improve student safety on buses
- Add more support staff—building services workers and teacher aides



Budget Highlights

- Total recommended budget of \$1.8 billion
- Increase of \$122 million over last year
- 89% of budget for employee compensation
- Additional staff positions to support special education students
- Opening of five new schools
- Nearly 65% of every dollar spent on classroom instruction —more than any other district in Maryland
- 2% spent on central administrative costs—third lowest in Maryland

Academic Highlights

- 81% of kindergarten students reading—increase of 10 percentage points from last year. Only 39% reading in 2001
- 4th grade students set highest scores ever on the Maryland School Assessment
- Record number of students taking Honors and AP courses
- 160 National AP Scholars—compared with 20 two years ago
- SAT score more than 1100 for 2 years in a row
- 23 high schools in nation's top 3%, according to *Newsweek*
- 15 semifinalists in the Intel Science Talent search
- 31 National Blue Ribbon Schools
- 48 National Merit Scholars

For more information:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org and cable channel 34