



## Top News

### Benefits Open Enrollment



Open Enrollment is the once-a-year opportunity to review your benefits and make selections that work best for you and your family. Changes made during Open Enrollment will be effective beginning January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

[Open enrollment](#) for 2024 benefits will be held from October 9-25.

#### What You Need To Do

**Review your options** online the week of October 9. In the coming weeks, more information will be available to help you understand your options:

- **What You Need to Know:** Outlines what's new including your rates for 2024
- **PGCPS Benefits Enrollment Decision Guide:** Includes information to help you make the most of your benefit options

**Consider your past, current and future healthcare needs.** By understanding your options, you can ensure you select benefit plans that best fit your needs.

### **Enroll by October 25**

During the Open Enrollment period (October 9 – 25, 2023), log on to Employee Self Service to review your options and select your benefits coverage. If you don't enroll, your current benefits will remain the same in 2024. There's only one exception: if you participate in the Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), you must re-enroll each year.

For the latest Open Enrollment updates, visit [www.pgcps.org/open](http://www.pgcps.org/open). To get answers to your questions, call: 301-952-6600 or email: [pgcps.benefits@pgcps.org](mailto:pgcps.benefits@pgcps.org).

## **Superintendent's Town Halls**



Superintendent House is hosting a series of town halls as an opportunity for stakeholders to share ideas on the future of PGCPS!

### **Town Hall Dates**

October 10  
6 - 8 p.m. | Oxon Hill High School

October 18  
6 - 8 p.m. | Charles H. Flowers High School

October 23  
6 - 7:30 p.m. | Virtual Town Hall Meeting

## **Announcements and Professional Development**

**Your Voice Matters! Take the Culture & Climate Survey**



Share your thoughts on your school and the PGCPs community! The [PGCPs Culture & Climate Survey](#) helps us gather stakeholder feedback that will guide us in setting priorities and strategic plans for the future.

Families, staff and students in grades 6-12 can take the 10-12 minute survey October 2-31. Students will also have the opportunity to complete the survey during their Social Studies class.

We appreciate your feedback! Everyone who completes the survey can enter a drawing for a \$50 gift card.

## **Get Involved: October Celebrations**

PGCPs will celebrate the following commemorations in October:

**Breast Cancer Awareness Month** - Wear pink (Oct. 13)

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month** - Wear purple (Oct. 19)

**Bullying Prevention Awareness Month** - Wear orange (Oct. 31)

Share how your school or office is supporting these important issues: [communications@pgcps.org](mailto:communications@pgcps.org).

## **SafeSchools Trainings: Round 2 and 3**

Mandatory SafeSchools training modules ensure all staff have the necessary information to establish and maintain positive, respectful, safe, lawful and supportive school and work environments. Round 2 sessions are due by Friday, Oct. 20. Round 3 sessions are due by Friday, Nov. 10. [Start trainings now!](#)

## **Paraprofessionals: Earn Licensure in Elementary Education or Early Childhood/Special Education**

The Maryland Higher Education Commission's (MHEC) Teacher Quality and Diversity Grant Program seeks a total of 45 underrepresented minoritized

paraprofessionals from select counties to enroll in Bowie State University's undergraduate programs toward licensure in Elementary Education or Early Childhood/Special Education. This program aims to help paraprofessionals complete courses toward their teaching license.

Info Sessions:

**Tuesday, Oct. 4**

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Zoom: [Click here](#)

**Wednesday, Oct. 11**

5 - 6 p.m.

Zoom: [Click here](#)

**Wednesday, Oct. 18**

4 - 5 p.m.

Zoom: [Click here](#)

**Tuesday, Oct. 24**

5 - 6 p.m.

Zoom: [Click here](#)

## ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

### Parent-Teacher Conference Language Resources for Oct. 9

With parent-teacher conferences approaching, please make note of language access resources to support communication with parents who are not native speakers of English.

[Learn More](#)

### STEM Fellowship

COLLABORATE. /// INTERACT. /// CONNECT.



Charles Herbert Flowers  
High School  
10001 Ardwick-Ardmore Road  
Springdale, MD 20774

**MAKING  
STEM  
MATTER**  
FELLOWSHIP

Learn more about a professional learning opportunity for PGcps educators who teach math, science, engineering, or technology to students in grades 4 through 12.

### **In-person**

Wednesday, Oct. 11 and Oct. 25

Both Sessions will be held at Charles. H. Flowers High School from 5 - 6:30 p.m.

### **Virtual**

Tuesday, Nov. 7

5 - 6:30 p.m.

Zoom link will be provided  
via eDoctrina

Questions? Van Rawls @ [van.rawls@pgcps.org](mailto:van.rawls@pgcps.org) or Lorrie Armfield  
@ [lorrie.armfield@pgcps.org](mailto:lorrie.armfield@pgcps.org)

## **Help Local Youth Experiencing Homelessness**

The McKinney Vento Program seeks community partners and trusted adults in schools to join the Ally Partners Program and become a trusted point of contact for students experiencing homelessness in Prince George's County. Workshop pay may be available for some staff.

Training will held at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates via Zoom:

Wednesday, October 25

Wednesday, November 29

Wednesday, January 31

Wednesday, February 28



[More Information](#)

## Save the Date: Specialty Programs Showcase



Mark your calendar for the PreK-Grade 12 [Specialty Programs](#) Showcase!

## PGCPS Express Update

Beginning in October and through the end of the year, *PGCPS Express* will be distributed twice a month as we work toward a rebrand to better serve you. During this transition, please visit the [staff portal](#) often for updates on professional development opportunities, news and teachers and staff spotlights. Announcements and news can continue to be shared to [newsletters@pgcps.org](mailto:newsletters@pgcps.org).

### STAY CONNECTED

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COMMENTS AND IDEAS: [communications@pgcps.org](mailto:communications@pgcps.org)