



Howard County Executive and Council Email Template

Submit written testimony by 4/20/2025

Subject: Testimony for the County Executive's FY26 Operating Budget

Dear Howard County [Executive or Council],

My name is [Your Name], and I am [a parent/PTA member/teacher/community member] from [School Name]. I am writing to urge full funding for the Howard County Public School System's (HCPSS) FY26 budget request. Our schools need these resources to support students, educators, and vital programs.

[Insert personal anecdote. Example: "At [School Name], programs like [specific program] have made a real difference, but we still face challenges such as [specific unmet need]."]

The proposed budget prioritizes staff retention, special education, and student safety—areas critical to student success. Key priorities are needed [specific needs, e.g., athletic trainers, special education support, sufficient staffing]. Without these investments, our students will not receive the education and support they deserve.

I appreciate your leadership and commitment to education. I urge you to fully fund this budget and advocate for the resources necessary to support all HCPSS students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Your Contact Information, optional]

Programs and staff are at risk of being cut

Listen to Superintendent Barnes describe the HCPSS budget situation:

"...I was optimistic and encouraged that we were putting forward a budget request that we were hoped to be funded and did not result in the elimination of programs or staffing positions and as we've moved through this budget season, I am much much less optimistic that we will find ourselves in that space...."

Email County Executive budgettestimony@howardcountymd.gov

Email County Council councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

HCPSS Superintendent Testimony

Message to Howard County PTA Members

- 1- Advocate for what's good. Tell how your school and students will benefit.
- 2- Customize: Use the template above to draft your email. Be sure to include a personal anecdote or example to make your message impactful.
- 3- The County Executive's Budget Proposal will be submitted 14 April (also County Council Capital Budget Public Hearing)
- 4- HCPSS' Operating Budget will be addressed by the County Council Public Hearing on Wednesday April 23. They represent the final approval of funding. Registration will open in April.