



KENT COUNTY LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

400 High Street
Chestertown, MD 21620
410-810-2673 | linktr.ee/kclmb

MINUTES

Kent County Local Board Meeting

December 18th, 2025

9:30 am – 11:00 am

Hybrid on [Teams](#) and KCLMB Office at 400 High St.

Attendance

Board Members: Van Hamlin, Lauren Searce, Zita Seals, Brandy Barrett, Sherrie Young-Hackett, Susan Berman, Claudia Wayne, Shelly Neal-Edwards, Carla Thorpe, Katie Dilley, Jill Coleman

Staff and Guests: Rosemary Ramsey Granillo, Kara Wehmueller, United Covenant Union and Beloved Community Chapel members Matthew Monk, Henry Sabetti, Janet Grimes, Rusty Curly, and KCPS Blueprint Coordinator Tom Porter

Absent: Chenelle Pettiford (partial), Julie Gill

Agenda and Minutes

Introduction: United Covenant Union and Beloved Community Chapel gave a presentation on their work to support informally employed “gig” workers and their hope of building a larger community support network between potential employers and workers.

Board Business: Reviewed agenda and electronic votes from the October meeting; discussed plans to fill board vacancy, including suggestions to seek a stakeholder member from KCPL or Department of Corrections; Rosemary requested volunteers for the Program Committee to review CRRF Grant applications and the upcoming contract renewal with MDA.

Data Review:

- Looked at indicators the LMB has used in the past to prioritize programs to see if there have been any major changes.





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- Child poverty has been declining, but there are still large disparities between Black and white children.
 - The percentage of infants born at low weight has been generally declining. Given the limited health care resources in Kent County, the Healthy Families Home Visiting Program is an important part of continuing this trend.
 - The percentage of students who report experiencing depressive episodes is increasing at both the Middle and High Schools and is higher than the state average. The Beyond You Mental mentoring program reaches students at both schools.
 - Chronic Absenteeism has been declining at the Middle School but has dramatically increased at the High School. The MDA Academy serves the Middle School only.
- Determined new indicators of need in Kent County for the LMB to monitor.
 - Middle and High School students report high rates of bullying on school grounds, though rates are trending down at the High School.
 - CTE program completion rates are high, indicating student interest in career education, but there is a need to help students choose the best fit based on interest and career prospects, rather than family connections.
 - Chesapeake College enrollment has been flat among Kent County residents over the past several years and may indicate a need to facilitate transportation, more local offerings, and online access.
 - Library card usage can indicate economic mobility, but many residents are not aware of the online tutoring and career training resources available for free.
 - Student homelessness is high in Kent County at over 7% of KCPS students.
 - Landlord-tenant cases have been increasing back up to pre-COVID levels.
 - Over 55% of Kent County renters are rent-burdened, meaning more than 30% of their income goes to paying rent.





KCLMB MEETING



DECEMBER 2025





AGENDA



- Meet and Greet Beloved Community Chapel
- Board Business
- Data and Priority Alignment
- Partner Sharing

Board business:

Review electronic votes from October.

Program review committee for CRRF awards etc

Review apps between Jan 9th and before Feb bd mtg

Bd Development - find more applicants and refresh committee

TO DO:



* **REVIEW DATA TRENDS AND ALIGN PRIORITIES (TODAY!)**

* **EVALUATE PROGRAMS AND SET FY27 STRATEGY**

- January and February 2026

* **BUILDING COMMUNITY ANEW ACTION PLANS**

- Build an actionable framework around Education, Housing, & Economic Mobility goals by June 30, 2026
- Establish “Community Quarterback”

* **BUILD NON PROFIT AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY**

- Explore partnerships to coordinate a Mutual Aid / Volunteer Network

* **SCORE AND AWARD CRRF GRANTS**

- Proposals due Jan. 9th Awards by March
- Implementation April 1 2026 - March 30 2027

These are the decision points and activities that we have coming up in 2026.

FY2023-FY2025

**1 FAMILIES ARE SAFE
AND ECONOMICALLY
STABLE**

**2 HEALTHY
CHILDREN**

**3 CHILDREN ARE
SUCCESSFUL IN
SCHOOL**

Child Poverty
• ALICE Households
Student Homelessness

Anxiety and
Depression
• High School

Chronic
Absenteeism
• Middle School

Healthy Families

Student
Behavioral Health
“Beyond Your Mental”

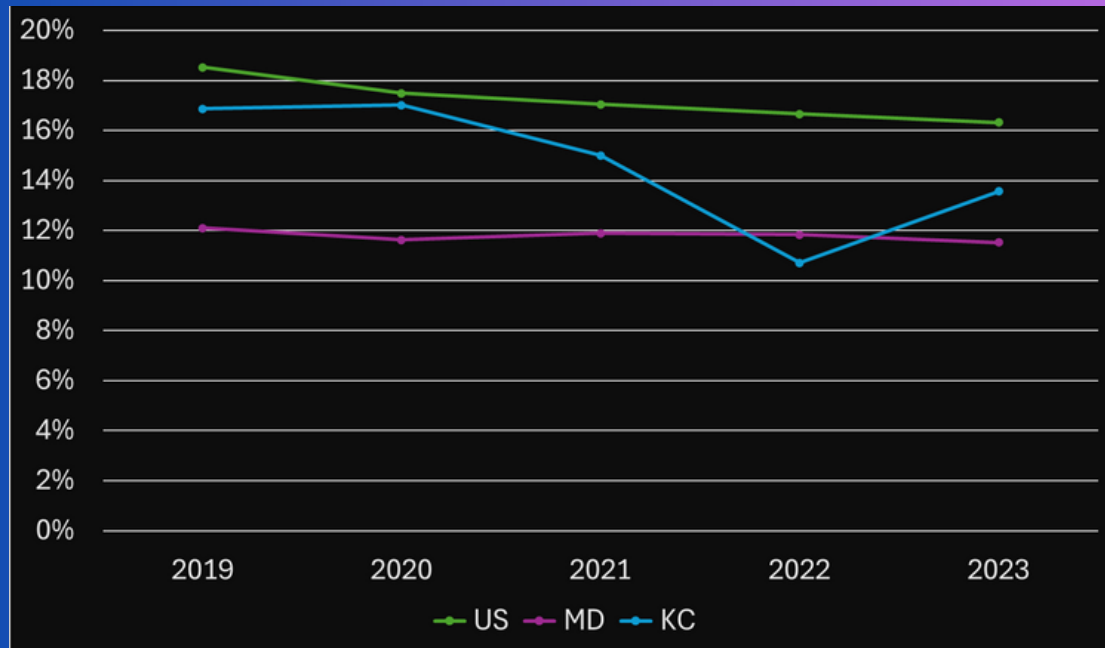
KCMS Afterschool

These are the indicators that we found concerning with our last community plan.

They are aligned with 3 of the 8 Child Well-Being Result areas set by the State.

Let's look at how they have performed since.

Child Poverty Rates

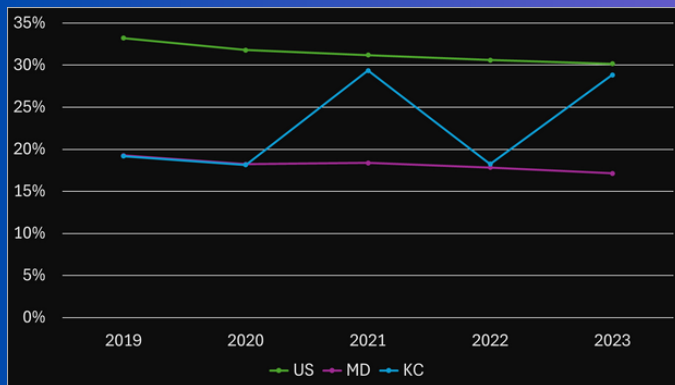


Child poverty in Kent County has historically tracked close to national rates, and much higher than Maryland rates.

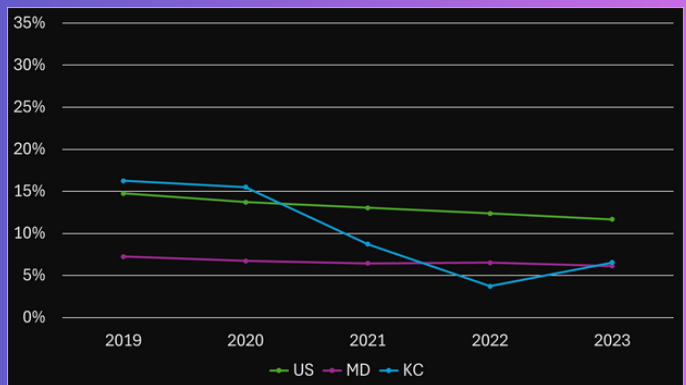
This remained true except in 2022 where it dipped even lower than MD.

Each show gradual decline. (Hooray!)

Poverty Rates Among Black Children



Poverty Rates Among White Children



Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates
Detailed Tables

What's interesting is that poverty rates for White children dipped even below Maryland levels in 2022 and were equal to MD in 2023.

Rates for Black children remain much higher than for White children, oscillating between being on par with rates for MD's black children or up to the national rate.

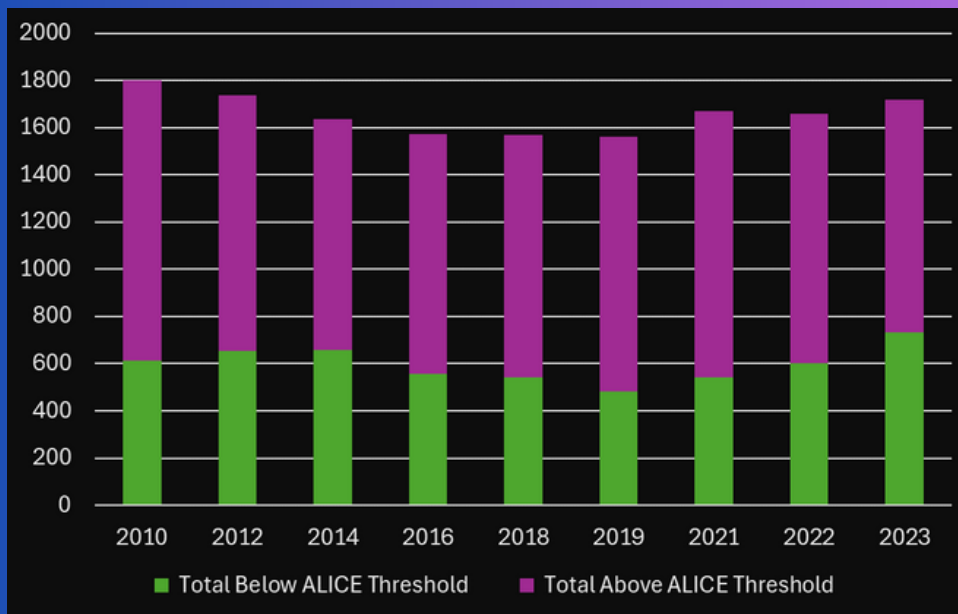
[KC23: 29% B, 7% W - 22 pt dif]

[KC22: 18%, 4% - 14pt dif]

[US23: 17%, 6% - 11pt dif]

[US22: 18%, 7% - 11pt dif]

of Kent Households with Children below and above ALICE threshold

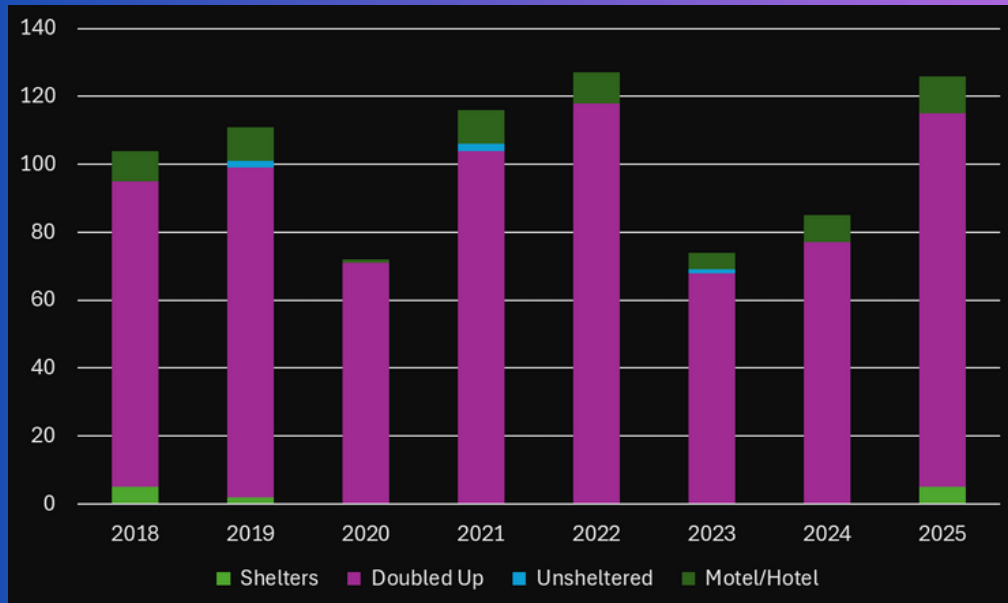


Source: United for ALICE and ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables

Here we see a concerning trend for working families or ALICE families: asset limited income constrained, employed.

Since 2019 we see the number of ALICE households with children is on the rise. While fewer children live in households that meet the federal definition of poverty, more and more children are in struggling households that don't qualify for as many benefits.

KCPS Student Homelessness 2018-2025

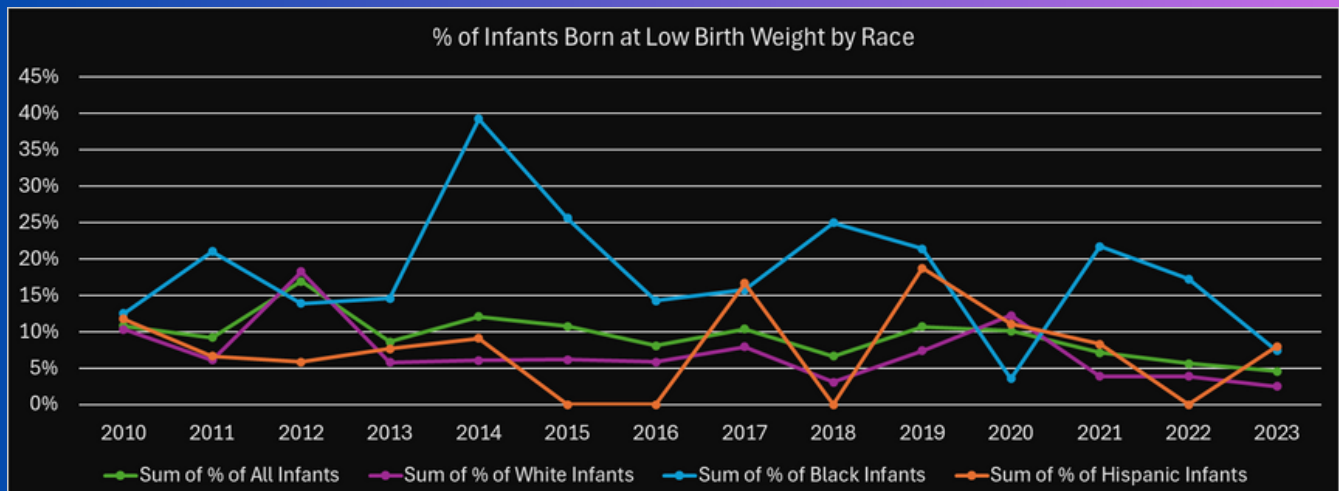


Source: KCPS
Reporting

And student homelessness remains high.

7% last school year.

Kent Low Birth Weight Rates by Race



Source: MD
Department of
Health Vital
Statistics
Annual Reports

We also looked at children born with low weight by race, especially since we fund Healthy Families Home Visiting.

Between 135(2018) to 185(2013) babies have been born each year.

This is a slight decline overall, with occasional spikes.

In 2014, 11 out of 28 Black infants had low birth weight. In 2023 it was just 2 out of 27.

Depressive Episodes Among Students



Source: MD
Department of
Health Youth
Risk Behavior
Survey Reports

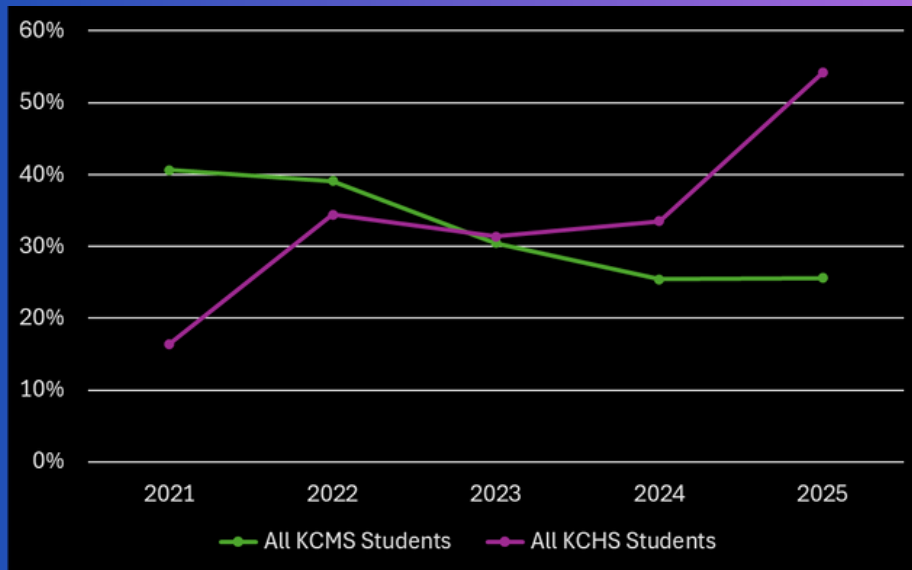
When we prioritized mental health among high school students in 2021 it was because there seemed to be a steady trend year over year

That remains true with 43% of KCHS students reporting that they were feeling sad or hopeless for over two weeks at some point in the past year.

48% of KCMS students reported the same in 2021, and 40% in 2023.

An unexpected benefit of the Beyond Your Mental program that the students designed is that it reaches both Middle and High School students.

Chronic Absenteeism



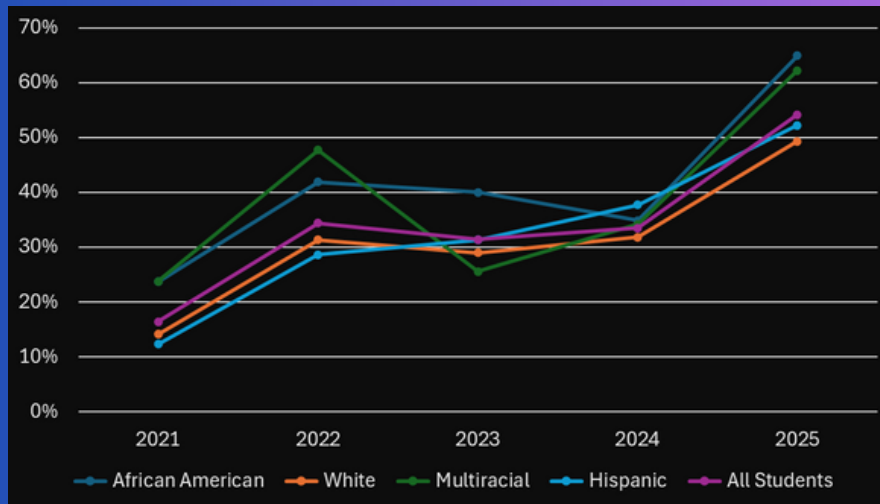
Source: MD State
Department of
Education Report
Card

What has flipped is the chronic absentee rate. The High School has shot up, while the Middle School has improved.

On the one hand we can celebrate that our strategy to improve attendance in the Middle School has helped.

On the other hand we are alarmed by the trend at the High School.

Chronic Absenteeism at KCHS by Race



Source: MD State
Department of
Education Report
Card

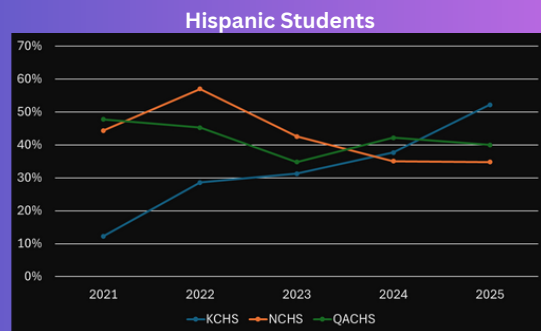
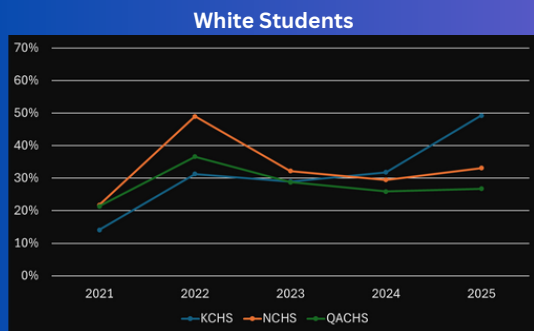
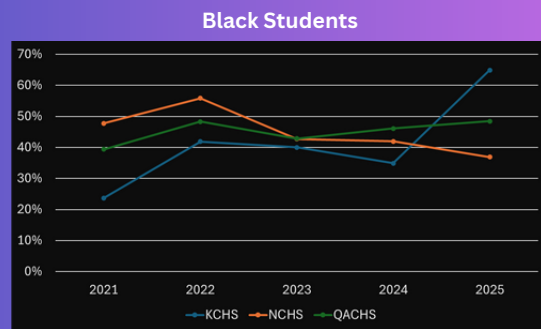
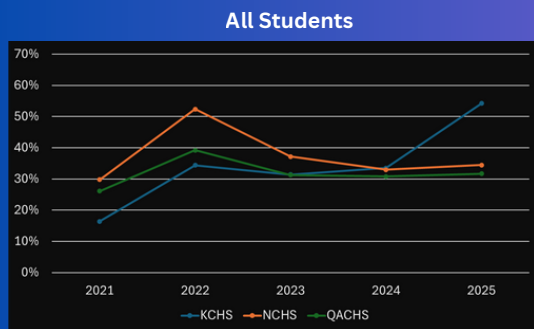
The trend in the high school is similar across race.

Last school year

65% of Black students were chronically absent.

49% of White students were chronically absent.

Chronic Absenteeism Among High School Students by County



Source: MD
State
Department
of Education
Report Card

Looking at our neighbors,

We were doing better (2021-2023) but then in 2024 and 2025 Kent's rate shot past them - for the worse.

FINAL GOALS

Housing, Economic Mobility, and Education

1 BUILD MORE
HOUSING AND
SUPPORT RENTERS

2 BOOST LOCAL
TRADES AND
CAREER TRAINING

3 CREATE SAFE,
SUPPORTIVE, AND
HEALTHY SCHOOL
ENVIRONMENTS

4 EXPAND AFTERSCHOOL,
SUMMER, AND WEEKEND
ENRICHMENT FOR ALL
AGES

5 GROW OUR LOCAL
ECONOMY WITH
BUSINESSES WE
ACTUALLY NEED

6 SUPPORT STUDENTS
AND FAMILIES OF ALL
CULTURES, LANGUAGES,
AND ABILITIES

So we have revisited our priority indicators from the past plan.

Let's see if there are new ones that we want to include
and align them with the ENOUGH pillars (4) and our KNOCK goals (3 categories, 6 goals).

FY2026-FY2028 Potential Priorities

**1 HIGH QUALITY
CHILDCARE AND
EDUCATION**

**2 HEALTHY
FAMILIES**

**3 ECONOMICALLY
SECURE FAMILIES**

**4 SAFE AND
THRIVING
COMMUNITIES**

**Chronic
Absenteeism**
• Middle School
• High School

**Anxiety and
Depression**
• High School
• Middle School

Child Poverty
• ALICE Households

Student Homelessness

Bullied Students

Low Birth Weight

CTE completion

Eviction Hearings

Math proficiency

**Student
Behavioral Health
Beyond Your Mental**

**Chesapeake College
Enrollment**

**Rent burdened
households**

KCMS Afterschool
Minary's Dream Academy

Healthy Families

**Library Card
holders/usage**

As aligned under the 4 ENOUGH Pillars
and the KNOCK Community Goal
categories (Blue=Education,
Orange=Economic Mobility,
Teal=Housing)

Here are all of the indicators we are looking at today - old priorities and new candidates.

We will revisit this after looking at each indicator highlighted here.

Housing

1

**BUILD MORE
HOUSING AND
SUPPORT RENTERS**

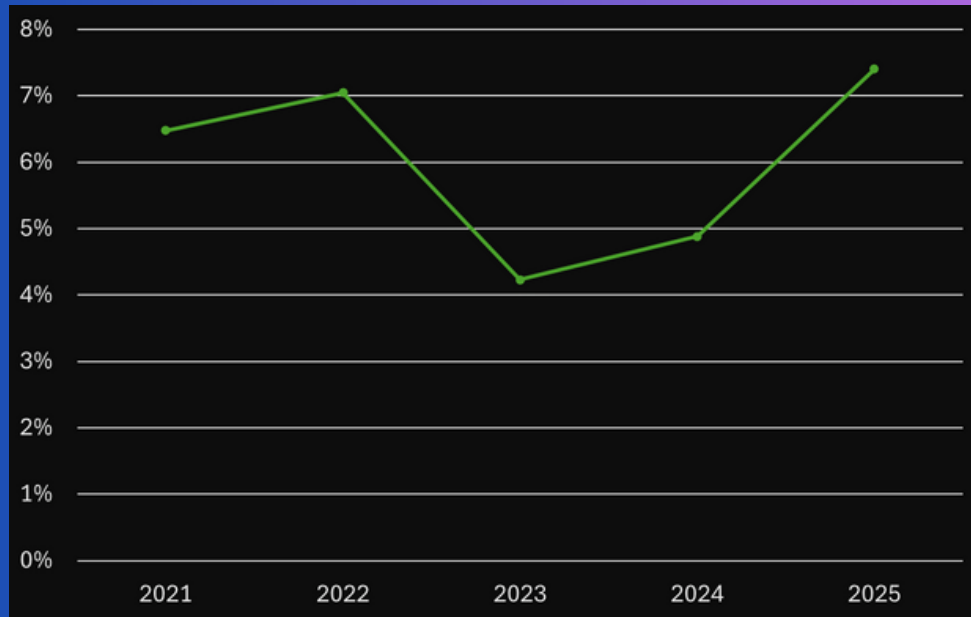


**Prioritize rental housing and
intergenerational, mixed-
income communities**



**Rental assistance, flexible
payment options, neighbor
to neighbor support**

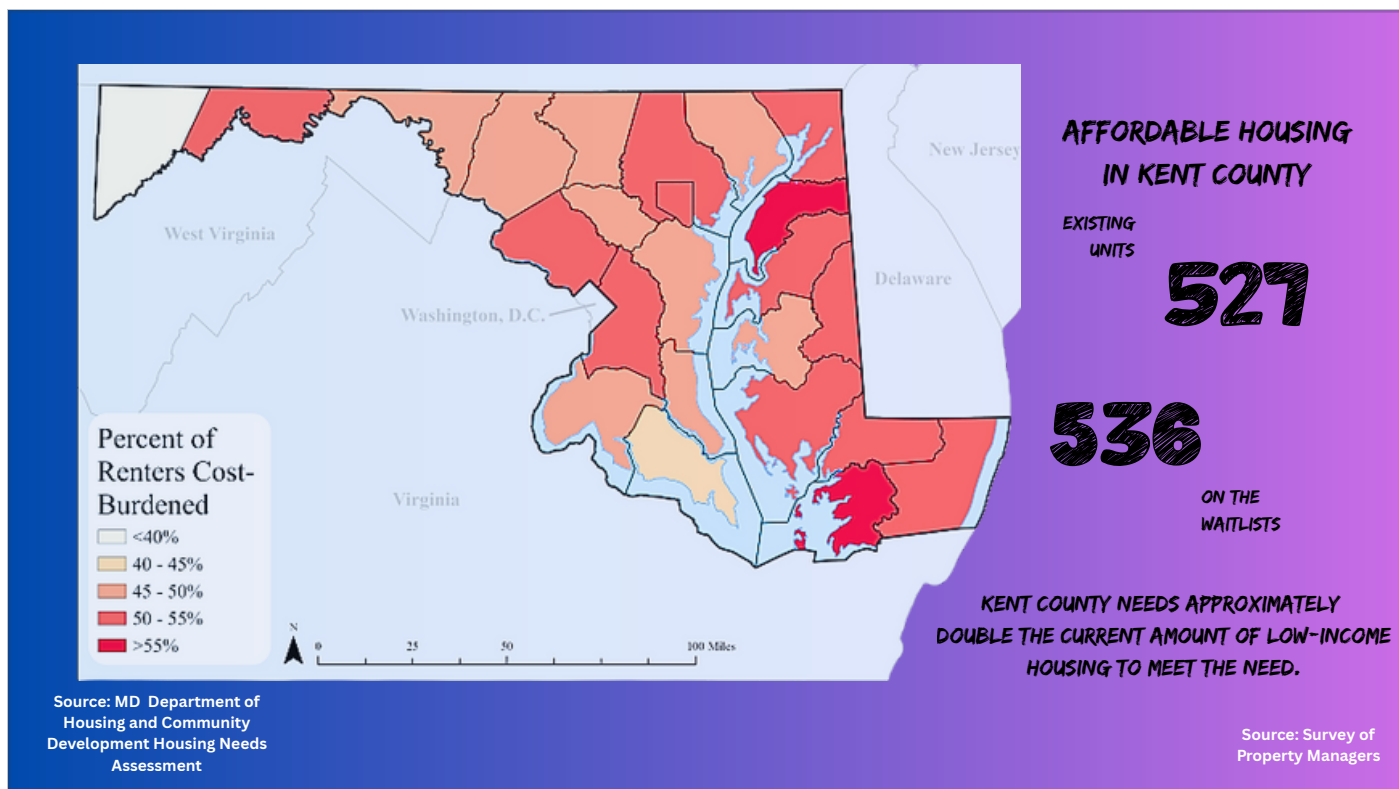
Rate of KCPS Student Homelessness



Source: KCPS
Reporting

Again student homelessness.

We looked at the numbers earlier, here we see the rate, with last year being the highest yet (7.4%)

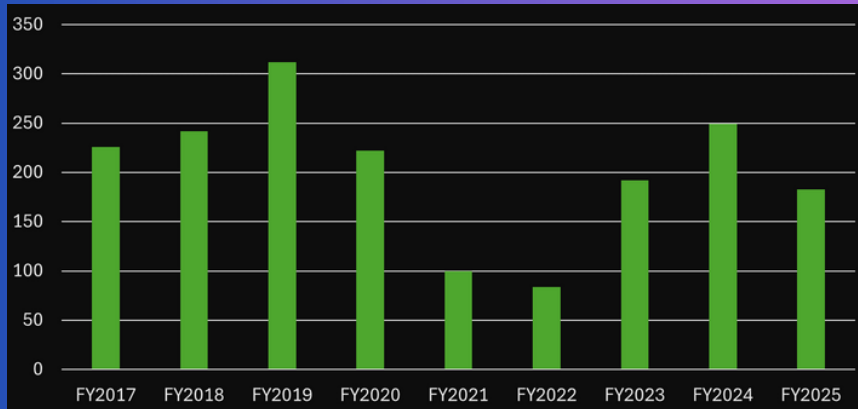


Kent and Somerset have the highest rate of rent burdened households in the state.

We also counted how many low income units exist in Kent County and how many people are on the waitlists.

Between the waitlist number and a formula to calculate the unit deficit, we estimate that we would have to double the number of units to meet the need.

Landlord-Tenant Cases in Kent County District Court



Source: MD
District Court
Annual Reports

Eviction hearings held at court - don't always end in eviction but indicates challenges.

If we estimate the target number of low income units total needed at 1,000, the figure of 250 hearings would be 1 quarter of households being summoned to court, or one quarter of low income households struggling to keep up with rent. This includes households living in subsidized units as well as those renting market rate units.

Education

CREATE SAFE, SUPPORTIVE, AND HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS

- Collaboratively learn about and adopt restorative practices and mental health supports.
- Develop anti-bullying and peer mediation with student-led accountability.

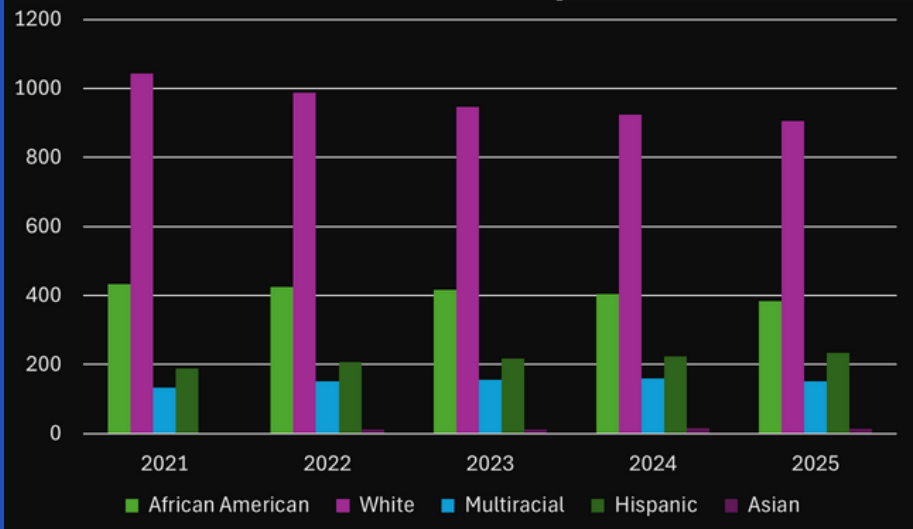
SUPPORT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES OF ALL CULTURES, LANGUAGES, AND ABILITIES

- Improve school-family communication for multi lingual learners, establish family hubs with interpreters and cultural liaisons.
- Support professional development on autism, special ed, trauma, and cultural competency

EXPAND AFTERSCHOOL, SUMMER, AND WEEKEND ENRICHMENT FOR ALL AGES

- Invest in accessible programs offering arts, sports, STEM, life skills, and water safety.
- Partner with local organizations to run enrichment activities year-round.

KCPS Student Population

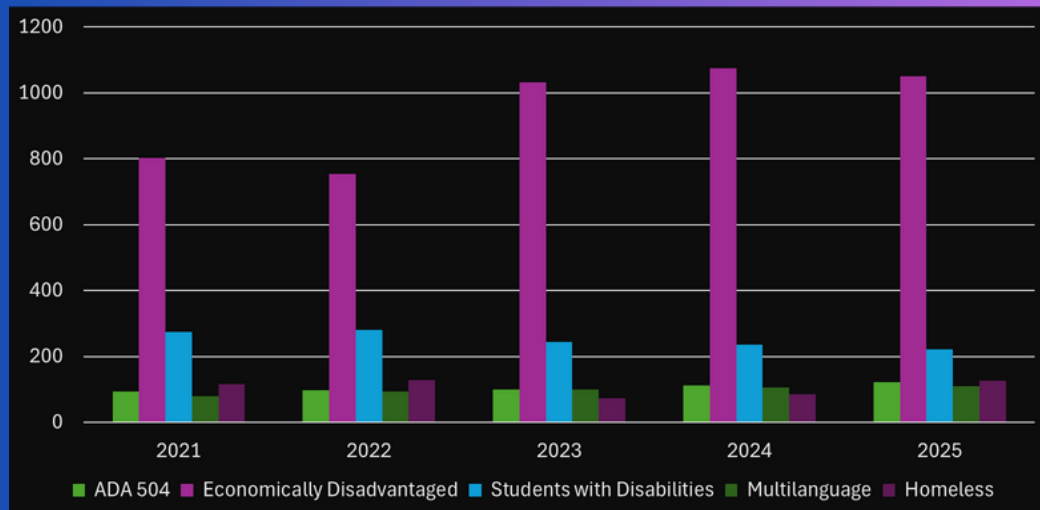


Total KCPS Population	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	1790	1802	1749	1741	1702

Source: MD State
Department of
Education Report
Card

- For context, our enrollment numbers by race.
- Steady decline of white students
 - Small decline of black students
 - Small increase of multi racial
 - Steady increase of Hispanic
- Overall enrollment loss of about 100 students over 5 years.

Other Student Populations



Source: MD State
Department of
Education Report
Card and KCPS
Reporting

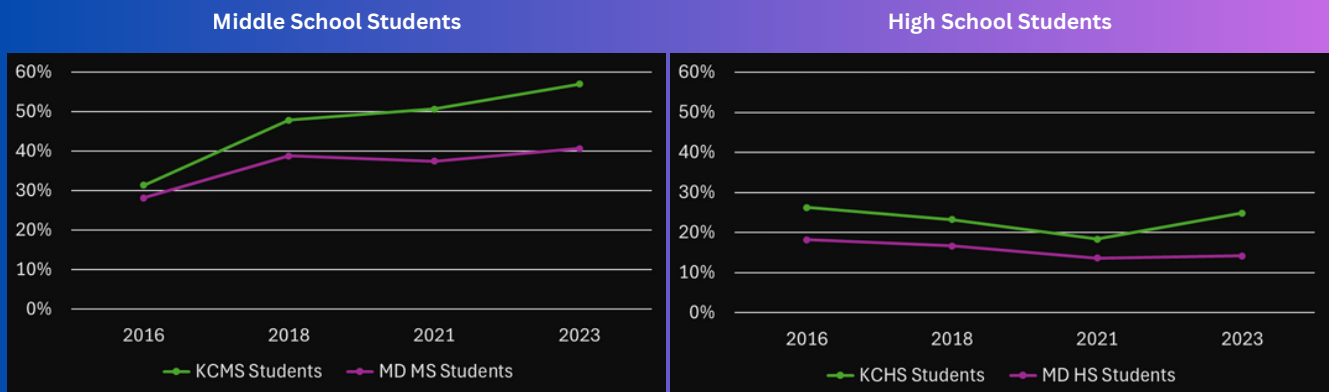
Continued concentration of poverty from about 800 students to 1,050 students

70 to 110 Multi Language students

Fewer students with disabilities [275 - 221]

More 504 (need accommodations) students [94-121]

Bullied Rates



Source: MD
Department of
Health Youth
Risk Behavior
Survey Reports

Bullyied rates are higher in Middle School and trending up.

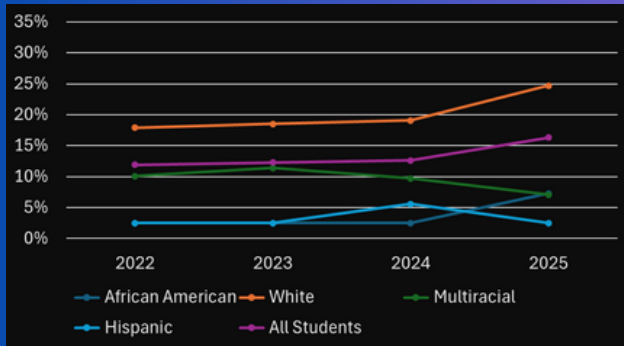
KCMS reached 57% last year, MD had risen to 41%

Opposite trend at High School.

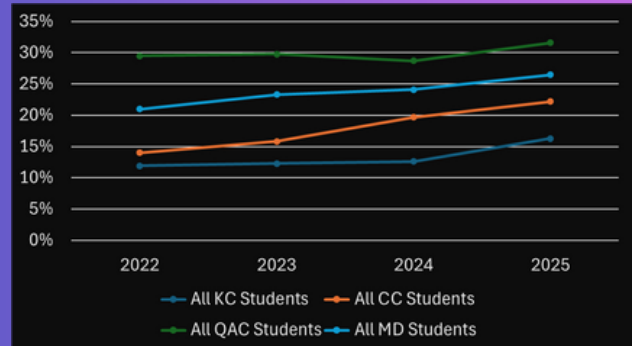
KCHS was down to 25% last year, MD High Schools were down to 14%

Math Proficiency Test Results (All Grades)

Kent County Results by Race



Kent County Results Compared to Other Areas



Source: MD State
Department of
Education Report
Card

Students scoring in the 3 or 4 range on MCAP [proficient]

Significant racial disparity

2025

Hispanic 2.5 (below 5%), White 18%, Black 7.3%

Trend upwards for White [18%-25%]

Trend flat or down for multiracial and Hispanic.

! African American students scored above 5% for the first time this past year. (7.3%)

Kent is consistently below neighboring counties and MD.

2025

Kent 16%

QA 32%

Caroline 22%

MD 27%

Economic Mobility

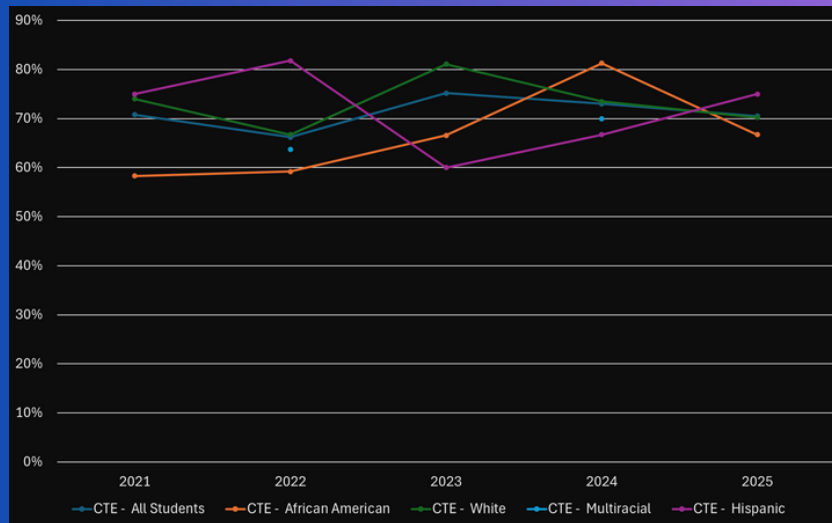
BOOST LOCAL TRADES AND CAREER TRAINING

- Boost a local trade school/hands-on training program for youth and adults.
- Build after-school or weekend clubs around job skills like barbering, mechanics, digital design, or food prep.

GROW OUR LOCAL ECONOMY WITH BUSINESSES WE ACTUALLY NEED

- Attract businesses that meet real community needs (not just fast food and dollar stores).
- Support small, homegrown entrepreneurs through licensing, permitting, and incentives.

Career & Technical Education Program Completion Rates at KCHS



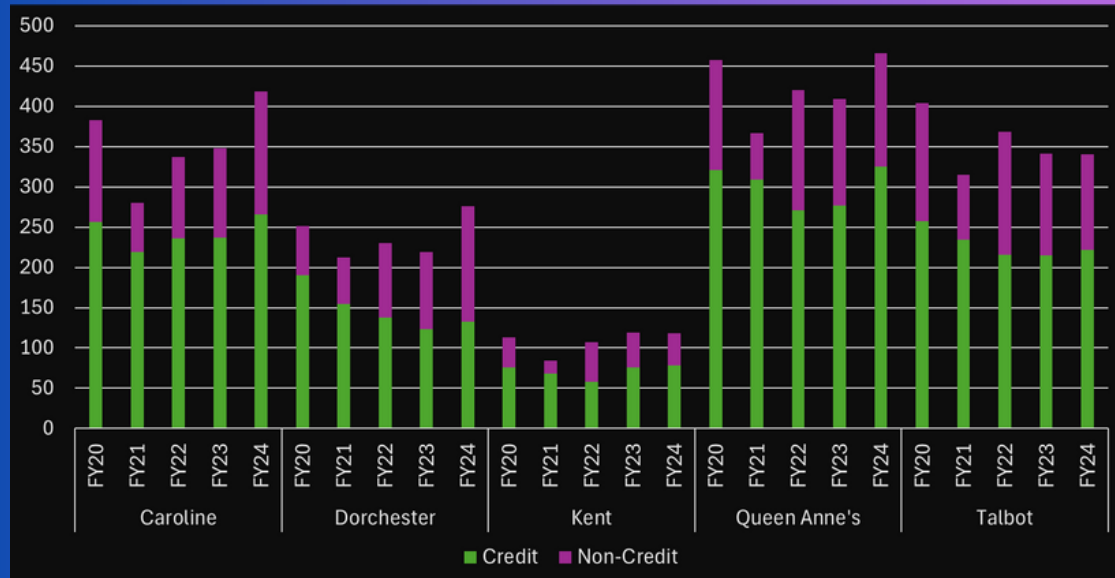
Source: MD
State
Department
of Education
Report Card

CTE Pathways at KCHS
Construction
Teacher Academy
Pre-Engineering
IT and Computer Science
FM Broadcasting
Food and Beverage Management
Academy of Health Professions
Automotive Tech
Agricultural Sciences
Fire and Rescue
Apprenticeship

Of students graduating KCHS each year, these are the percentage who completed a CTE program.

1. Most students are completing a CTE program
2. The strongest gains year over year have been with Black students, despite a dip last year, and the racial disparity we saw in 2021 and 2022 has closed considerably.

Area Trends in Chesapeake College Enrollment



Source:
Chesapeake
College Budget
Book

No significant increase in enrollment in Kent or Talbot, while there has been steady growth in Caroline, QA, and Dorchester.

QA consistently enrolls over 400 students a year.

Cambridge has a full service auxiliary site that opened in 1994 and was renovated in 2015. There is also a mobile trades van that can visit different locations, like it did this summer to teach welding to the Hip Hop Time Capsule Interns.

Chesapeake is starting phase 1 construction of a new technical/trade school building this fiscal year.

FY2026-FY2028 Prioritized Indicators

1 HIGH QUALITY
CHILDCARE AND
EDUCATION

2 HEALTHY
FAMILIES

3 ECONOMICALLY
SECURE FAMILIES

4 SAFE AND
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KCMS Afterschool
Minary's Dream Academy

Healthy Families
Home Visiting

Here are the former and new indicators that we have reviewed today.

One by one, decide to keep or remove each indicator for our FY26-FY28 prioritized indicators.