



Education Commission Report

Report to Mayor and Council June 2026

Members & Mission

Commission Members

- Co-Chairs
 - Lisa Kehayias-Farhi, Edward Reed
- Secretary
 - Wendy Whitaker
- Commissioners
 - Tanya Aquilar, Sarah Clark, Xian Lu, Shauntae Spaugh, Nicole Stone, Chelsea Zhu

City Staff Liaison

- Cecil Rucker

Mayor and Council Representative

- David Myles

Mission

To maintain and grow collaborative relationships among the county's board of education, Montgomery County Public Schools, private and nonprofit schools within Rockville, Montgomery College-Rockville campus, parent-teacher associations, private and nonprofit school boards, home-school communities, and providers of early childcare in the Rockville community. Members are parents or guardians representing public and private education or are education professionals.



FY2026

Focus Areas

- School Wellness
- Community and Business Partnerships
- Schools and Community Outreach



Goals

- Listen and Learn
- Strengthen Communication
- Build Trusted Partnerships
- Connect Schools and Families to City Resources

FY2026 Accomplishments

School Wellness

- Wellness Spotlights

Schools & Community Outreach

- Principals' Roundtable
- Newsletters
- Principal engagement

Community & Business Partnerships

- Business Partnerships Tool

General

- Expanded School Representation
- New Commissioners



School Wellness

- Developed wellness-focused newsletter content and school spotlights
- Conducted school wellness spotlight interviews featuring:
 - Richard Montgomery High School
 - RPCNS Nursery School
- Highlighted innovative approaches to student and parent wellness
- Expanded discussion of teacher recognition, peer support, and parent wellness
- Added new commissioner Sarah Clark, bringing expertise in early childhood and special education

Community and Business Partnerships

- Continued development and promotion of the Educational Partnerships initiative
- Conducted outreach to businesses and community stakeholders (over 75 businesses contacted personally)
- Used Rockville social media to promote Partnerships
- Coordinated with REDI and City communications staff on partnership promotion
- Expanded awareness of school resource needs
- Promoted school/community partnership opportunities through newsletters and outreach

Business Partnerships Tool Reminder

- Designed to identify opportunities for local business, nonprofit, and government organizations to partner with Rockville area schools.
- Serves as a connection point for parent-teacher organizations to local organizations.
- Contributions could span a wide range, from providing school supplies and one-time event sponsorships, to establishing fundraising partnerships and collaborative programs.

Educational Partnership Opportunities

The Business and Community Partnerships Subcommittee of the Education Commission has launched an initiative designed to identify educational opportunities for local business, nonprofit, and government organizations to partner with Rockville area schools to help provide important resources for Rockville students and programs.

This initiative serves as a connection point for parent-teacher organizations to local organizations eager to fulfill community needs. These contributions could span a wide range, from providing school supplies and one-time event sponsorships, to establishing fundraising partnerships, internship programs, and collaborative after-school activities.

Please see below for a list of needs identified by Rockville area schools. PTA members and school representatives seeking resources for Rockville students and programs, as well as local organizations interested in providing them, should email educationcommission@rockvillemd.gov to participate in this initiative.

Resources Needed for Rockville Area Schools

	Description	Contact
Headphones	Headphones for Chromebooks during independent work time.	Jessica Jackson Community Liaison Meadow Hall Elementary School Jessica_E_Jackson@mcpsmd.org
Winter Clothing	Jackets, mittens, hats, etc. for winter, as many families can't afford to buy them for their students.	Jessica Jackson Community Liaison Meadow Hall Elementary School Jessica_E_Jackson@mcpsmd.org
Food Pantry	Shelf stable items that can be replenished in intervals to help families at the school.	Jessica Jackson Community Liaison Meadow Hall Elementary School Jessica_E_Jackson@mcpsmd.org
Coffee, Breakfast, Snacks, and Catering	The school offers English lessons for parents twice a week so looking for someone to supply snacks for kids and adults during these sessions.	Jessica Jackson Community Liaison Meadow Hall Elementary School Jessica_E_Jackson@mcpsmd.org

Schools & Community Outreach

- Planned and coordinated the 2026 Principals' Roundtable
- Expanded direct communication with school leaders
- Developed newsletter connecting schools with City resources
- Strengthened relationships with:
 - Public schools
 - Private schools
 - PTAs

Principals Roundtable: March 18, 2026

This year, the Education Commission expanded the Principals' Roundtable into a more interactive working-session model designed to strengthen collaboration between school leaders, City leadership, and community partners.

Participants

- Public and private school principals, Mayor and Council, Education Commission members, and City staff

Highlights

- Expanded outreach and participation from schools across the Rockville cluster
- Small-group discussions focused on student wellbeing, family needs, and community partnerships
- Increased peer-to-peer sharing between school leaders
- Stronger relationship-building and follow-through conversations after the event

Principals Roundtable: Key Findings

Mental Health & Wellness

- Increased student anxiety and behavioral health concerns
- Need for bilingual therapists and expanded supports
- Stress connected to immigration fears and economic instability

Community Resource Access

- Documentation fears limiting service access
- Transportation, health and food insecurity barriers
- Need for multilingual outreach and trusted resource navigation

What Is Working

- Peer mentoring programs
- Restorative practices
- Trusted adult models
- Youth mentoring programs

Strategic Direction for FY2027

The Commission will continue focusing on:

- Trusted relationship-building
- School-based outreach
- Resource accessibility
- Wellness and mentoring initiatives
- Connecting schools with community services

Responsive actions already initiated:

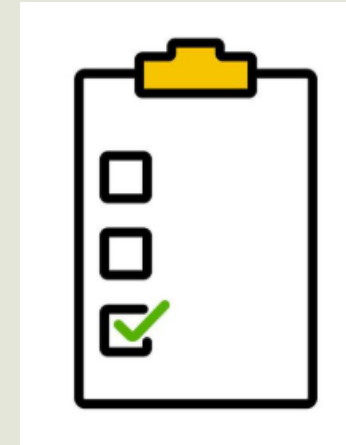
- Continued Rockville City mentoring expansion
- Expansion of communication efforts
- Increased collaboration with school leaders and PTAs
- MobileMed outreach and healthcare resource sharing

“From Presence to Partnership”



Priority Action for FY2027

- Continue annual Principals' Roundtable
- Expand newsletters and school communications
- Strengthen business/community use of partnership tool
- Support student wellness initiatives
- Increase multilingual and trusted outreach efforts
- Continue connecting schools and City resources





Congratulations, Chelsea!

The Rockville Education Commission proudly recognizes and celebrates **Chelsea Zhu** on her graduation from **Richard Montgomery High School** and her acceptance to **Stanford, Princeton and Yale.**

Throughout her service on the Commission, Chelsea brought:

- Student voice and perspective
- Leadership and advocacy
- Creativity and wellness-focused ideas
- Youth engagement and community connection




We thank Chelsea for her service and wish her continued success as she begins this exciting next chapter!



Thank you Mayor and Council.

Thank you principals and school communities.

Thank you commissioners and city staff.



**Strong schools and
strong communities are
built through trust,
collaboration, and
partnership.**

Contact us: educationcommission@rockvillemd.gov