



**(b) Provide a rationale for selecting the community where the proposed school will be located.**

Montgomery County is experiencing exciting, and yet challenging growth and the school district is taking definitive action to address it. Montgomery County currently has 26 schools serving students in grades kindergarten through 12.

Madison County will likely see a large influx in population once Ford’s “Blue Oval” factory begins production at the Memphis Regional Megasite. Ford and SK have committed to investing \$5.6 Billion in the factory, with the aim of producing the electric F-Series Truck beginning in 2025. The factory will require other ancillary suppliers and services, bringing additional economic development to southwestern Tennessee. This exciting business growth will also fuel population growth in the region as it is likely that the Blue Oval factory will attract skilled talent from across the region. (Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. “Memphis Regional Megasite.” 2023. <https://tnced.com/sites/memphis-megasite/>)

It is projected that the new plant will create around 5,800 permanent, new jobs in southwestern Tennessee, in addition to the thousands of people required to build the plant. Some in the local communities are already a little bit nervous about how this growth will affect their infrastructure, including roads, parking, water, sewer, residential housing, and schools. It is likely that the western part of the country will see much of the population inflows due to its proximity to the plan. (Styf, Jon. “Questions Surround Logistics, Infrastructure for Ford’s \$6.5B Tennessee Megasite Project. The Center Square. 3/1/2022. [https://www.thecentersquare.com/tennessee/questions-surround-logistics-infrastructure-for-ford-s-5-6b-tennessee-megasite-project/article\\_20fbc2ec-9900-11ec-91d7-175021ecb4a8.html](https://www.thecentersquare.com/tennessee/questions-surround-logistics-infrastructure-for-ford-s-5-6b-tennessee-megasite-project/article_20fbc2ec-9900-11ec-91d7-175021ecb4a8.html))

Within the county itself, Georgia-Pacific is investing \$425 million to build a new plant to manufacture their Dixie products. The company estimates that the factory will provide over 200 jobs once the production begins, in addition to the workers required to construct the new plant. This investment is the largest in Madison County history and bodes well for future development. Once other companies realize the potential in Madison County, they will also look to invest.

ACAJM looks forward to partnering with the district to provide educational opportunities to the families who will be moving to Madison County to work in these new development projects. ACAJM has also been in conversation with Mike Schmidt, the Director of Education for the Ford