

Irrigation Service Technician/Groundskeeper Grounds Services

*A complete application includes all application materials, proof of education and three supervisory references. Internal applicants must have a minimum of one reference from a **current supervisor** from within HCPSS. References must be updated annually. Applicants must submit all required materials by the closing date.*

Currently all full-time and part-time HCPSS staff are required to provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or undergo weekly testing.

To learn more about HCPSS, please visit our website at <https://www.hcpss.org/>.

Description:

This is specialized grounds work. An employee in this position works independently and receives general supervision from the Manager, Assistant Manager and Lead person within the Grounds Services Department. Performance is evaluated on an ongoing basis. **This position is designated as an “emergency employee” under the AFSCME negotiated agreement and requires a response during inclement weather and other emergencies.**

Essential Job Functions:

- Maintains and repairs grounds irrigation systems including installation and maintenance
- Performs grounds maintenance to turf and landscape surfaces
- Applies pesticides and other chemical treatments related to material to turf and landscape surfaces
- Ability and knowledge to skillfully operate backhoes, tractors, trenchers, dump trucks, various types of mowing and heavy duty equipment and hand and power tools related to grounds renovation
- Ability to use and understand multi-meter reading, ampere meter, wire locating equipment and wire splicing techniques
- Ability to pick up and carry 80 pounds
- Ability to be free of allergies to grass, weeds, vegetative growth, etc. used by the school system
- Ability to work in adverse weather conditions and assist with snow removal where needed or directed
- Ability to climb ladders, work in a kneeling or crawling position, consistently bend, stoop, lift, reach above shoulders, and stand for long periods of time
- Ability to lift, carry, mix and apply grounds/irrigation materials
- Ability to operate a Howard County Public School System vehicle
- Ability to work a variety of shifts and weekends

This job description is a summary of the functions of the job, not an exhaustive or comprehensive list of all possible job responsibilities, tasks, and duties.

Examples of Work:

- Installs and maintains irrigation systems to include installation of irrigation supply lines, valves, controllers, wiring, irrigation heads and related equipment
- Performs repairs on sprinkler control devices and maintains sprinkler preventive maintenance program
- Operates backhoe, tractors, trenchers, dump trucks, various types of mowing equipment and hand tools
- Performs repairs to Storm water ponds, structures and piping
- Grades playing fields and other areas, seeds them, and provides proper application of sod
- Prepares mulch and applies same around trees and shrubbery
- Removes snow and ice from walkways, driveways, parking lots and pathways
- Hauls stone and gravel from quarries to job sites
- Cuts grass
- Cleans tracks and parking lots
- Cleans and performs preventive maintenance on all equipment used

Minimum Qualifications:

Applicants must meet all of the qualifications, listed herein, to be considered for the vacancy. Use the application, cover letter, and resume to specifically address each qualification.

Education:

High School diploma or GED (must scan and upload to the online application). Foreign credentials must be evaluated as U.S. High School diploma or above.

Completion of two-year certificate program in horticultural, agronomy or turf management is desirable or equivalent training and experience to meet the above requirements.

Experience:

Experience in the installation and maintenance of irrigation systems and a general knowledge of grounds keeping and landscaping.

Required Licenses and Certificates:

Valid driver's license with a requirement to advance to a Commercial Driver's License, Class A with air brake endorsement within one year. Must have a good driving record.

Physical Requirements:

- Ability to pick up and carry 80 pounds
- Ability to work in adverse weather conditions and assist with snow removal where needed or directed
- Ability to climb ladders, work in a kneeling or crawling position, consistently bend, stoop, lift, reach above shoulders, and stand for long periods of time

- Ability to lift, carry, mix and apply grounds/irrigation materials

Other Qualifications:

- Knowledge of irrigation products and irrigation equipment available in the industry
- Knowledge of various sprinkler heads, automatic valves, controllers, booster pumps/pump, start relays, and backflow devices
- Ability to troubleshoot sprinkler heads and valves, complete tear down of heads and identification of parts
- Knowledge of flows, pressure loss, velocity, pipe sizing and how it affects the irrigation systems
- Knowledge of athletic field maintenance, operation and preventive maintenance
- Ability and willingness to follow oral and written direction
- Ability to read, understand and apply information from operator's manuals for various equipment
- Ability to write reports as time and materials are used
- Ability to establish and maintain strong human relation skills, effective communication, excellent customer skills and good working relationships with fellow workers, school personnel, administrators, students, parents and the community
- Ability to read maps to find the locations of the schools and office buildings belonging or being used by the Department of Education.

Salary:

This is a 12-month position, Salary Grade 5 on the Maintenance/Warehouse Salary Scale in the AFSCME Master Agreement <https://www.hcpss.org/f/employment/afscme-agreement.pdf> (Actual salary placement will be in accordance with the salary procedures of the Howard County Public School System. External candidates may be placed no higher than the mid-point of the salary grade). **Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, this position is not exempt from overtime.**

Application:

A complete online application and all application materials, including **three** reference surveys, must be submitted by the closing date to be considered. **Internal candidates must have a minimum of one reference from a current supervisor from within HCPSS, returned by the closing date of the posting.**

Please be sure to include the following in your application materials:

- A complete listing of employment locations
- Dates of employment
- Names of direct supervisors
- High School diploma/transcript or College diploma/transcript

For questions regarding this vacancy, please contact:

Laurie Watts
Recruitment Specialist
Office of Human Resources
Laurie_Watts@hcpss.org

Additional Information:

There will be a pre-screening of all applicant credentials. Interviews will be limited to those applicants who, in addition to meeting the basic requirements, have experiences and education that most closely match the position qualifications and the needs of the school system.

Pre-employment Physical:

The person selected for this position must meet all requirements of the physical examination administered by a medical service selected by the Howard County Department of Education.

Employee Safety:

The employee is responsible for using safety devices and protective equipment in order to minimize the frequency and severity of work-related accidents. The employee is also responsible for using safe practices and methods in the operation of equipment and supplies related to his/her particular job.

The employee is further responsible for correcting and/or reporting any conditions within the building or grounds that may be hazardous to employees, students or staff members assigned to the building.

Only applicants who submit all of the requested information by the closing date of the vacancy will be considered for this position.

Equal Opportunity Employer

HCPSS celebrates diversity and is committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees and applicants and prohibits discrimination, harassment, and retaliation of any kind. All employment decisions at HCPSS are based on organizational needs, job requirements and individual qualifications, without regard to race, color, religion or belief, national, social or ethnic origin, sex (including pregnancy), age, physical, mental or sensory disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, marital, civil union or domestic partnership status, veteran status or present military service, family medical history or genetic information, family or parental status, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws.

This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation and training and career development.