

## **Irrigation Service Technician/Groundskeeper Grounds Services**

*A complete application includes all application materials and proof of education  
Applicants must submit all required materials by the closing date.*

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is one of the leading school systems in the state of Maryland and the nation. In alignment with our [Strategic Call to Action](#), our mission is to ensure academic success and social emotional well-being for our approximately 57,000 students in an inclusive and nurturing environment that closes opportunity gaps. To learn more about employment with HCPSS, please visit <https://www.hcpss.org/employment/>.

### **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 POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

- Maintains and repairs grounds irrigation systems including installation and maintenance
- Performs grounds maintenance 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

### **REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES**

- 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.

### **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 the following qualifications, listed below, to be considered for the vacancy.**

**Education:** High school diploma or GED equivalent.

HCPSS requires an official [evaluation of foreign credentials](#) to verify educational qualifications.

**Experience:** Two years of experience in the installation and maintenance of irrigation systems and a general knowledge of grounds keeping and landscaping.

### **LICENSURE**

- Possession of a Maryland Class C driver's license with a requirement to advance to a Commercial Driver's License, Class A with air brake endorsement within one year and satisfactory driving record with 2 or less points on your record.

### **PRE-EMPLOYMENT PHYSICAL**

- The person selected for this position must meet all requirements of the physical examination including a color vision test.

### **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 their 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.
- The employee is responsible for the safety and maintenance condition of their assigned vehicle.

### **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

This position is designated as an “emergency employee” under the AFSCME negotiated agreement and may require a response during inclement weather and other emergencies. When work cannot be scheduled during the school year during normal hours, weekend/evening and shift work may be required as allowed by the AFSCME negotiated agreement. Maintenance employees are issued a school system cell phone to receive calls from their supervisor and respond to emergency events as needed.

### **SELECTION REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications will receive further evaluation. The evaluation may be a rating of your application based on your education, training, and experience as they relate to the requirements of the position. Therefore, it is essential that you provide complete and accurate information on your application. Please report all related education, dates, and hours of work. Clearly indicate your college degree and major on your application, if applicable.

### **EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION**

This is a 12-month per year position in the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) employee bargaining unit. This position is Grade V on the Audio Visual/ Grounds/ Maintenance/ Warehouse salary scale. Actual placement will be in accordance with the salary procedures of the HCPSS and the AFSCME Master Agreement which considers relevant prior experience. Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, this position is non-exempt.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Complete applications must be submitted by the closing date. Information submitted after this date will not be added. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of a completed application.

**Only applicants who submit all the requested information by the closing date of the vacancy will be considered for this position.** Interviews will be limited to those applicants who, in addition to meeting the

basic requirements, have experience and education which most closely match the position qualifications and the needs of the HCPSS.

Please note that a completed application includes:

- A complete application form that includes a listing of employment locations with dates of employment and names of direct supervisors.
- All supplemental materials (e.g., resume, letter of introduction, transcripts, diplomas) required to verify that you meet the minimum qualifications.

For questions regarding this vacancy, please contact:

Laurie Watts  
Recruitment Specialist  
[laurie\\_watts@hcpss.org](mailto:laurie_watts@hcpss.org)

***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. HCPSS is committed to the principle of equal employment opportunity for all employees in providing them with a work environment free of discrimination and harassment. 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.