

Draft 3: Proposed policy revisions for April 18 SB Work Session

Key:

- Notes are highlighted in yellow and will not be part of the policy. They're designed to provide context.
- Proposed deletions are highlighted in gray and show ~~strikeouts~~ through the text.
- Proposed additions to Draft 2 are in bold and use a different font.

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 25-2.2 Options and Transfers

Arlington Public Schools (APS) provides a blend of neighborhood and option schools.

Neighborhood schools have attendance areas established by the School Board. Every student is

- assigned to a neighborhood school on the basis of the student's place of residence.
- guaranteed admission to the elementary, middle, and high school serving the attendance areas in which the student resides.

Option schools provide specialized instructional. APS provides:

- equitable access to option schools for all students including students with disabilities and English language learners
- a rational, fair, and transparent process for option school admissions.

Option schools are different by level (preschool, elementary, middle, and high) and there is no guarantee that access at one level ensures access to all levels.

Community raised concerns that we're removing the current guaranteed articulation for Immersion and Montessori students.

- Staff recommends the approach used in Draft 3, Elementary and Secondary PIP identifies option schools, and the list of secondary options specifies "Prerequisites, Other Notes". Elementary Immersion and Montessori students would meet the prerequisites, others students would need to be assessed to be considered for admission.
- An alternative approach is to guarantee access for Immersion and Montessori students in the policy.

This blend of neighborhood and option schools is provided to the extent possible given financial constraints and capacity limits.

Students may apply for

1. admission to option schools and programs or
2. a transfer to another neighborhood school that has available seats.

For students who are 4 years old or older, and live outside of the defined walk zone,

- APS provides transportation to the student's neighborhood school or option schools
- Parents/guardians are responsible for transportation for transfers to other neighborhood schools.

Within this policy, twins (multiples) are children, who reside in the same residence, have the same legal guardians, and will be concurrently enrolled in the same grade. Twins (multiples) although admitted as two, will be treated as

- one in all elementary applications for option schools and
- individual applicants for secondary option schools.

Within this policy, siblings are children who reside in the same residence, and have the same legal guardians. At the elementary level, siblings of older students who will be concurrently enrolled at the school or program will receive priority in admission.

Principals asked that the policy clearly define siblings, too, ensuring a consistent interpretation across the district.

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ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
25-2.2 Options and Transfers

The Superintendent will report annually to the School Board on the student enrollment in APS.

The SB should define desired results, check in points.

Appeals

Decisions made under this policy may be appealed to the Superintendent's designee, the Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services. The appeal shall be submitted **in writing** to include the specific reasons and justification for why an exception should be granted. If families are dissatisfied with the **written response** answer to their appeal, they may then appeal in writing to the School Board.

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