



Arlington
Public
Schools



A Framework for Updating Policy 25-2.2 Enrollment and Transfers for Schools and Programs

School Board Work Session

January 9, 2017



Why we are updating the policy 25-2.2

APS is

- working to create the best learning experiences for our students
- experiencing strong enrollment growth, shifting demographics, and evolving state education requirements
- implementing complex and overlapping development initiatives

The School Board is reviewing and updating all policies

The enrollment and transfer policy is another tool that the SB can use to ensure the best learning experiences for our students





Defining Policy and PIPs

Policy

- Policies are principles of action
- The School Board creates policy and governs through the policy it creates

Policy Implementation Procedures (PIPs)

- PIPs are the procedural steps that APS follows to implement School Board's Policies
- The Superintendent manages operations of the school system in accordance with School Board policies



Agenda

7:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The School Board's Charge● Defining policies and PIPs● Guiding Principles for the Updates
7:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 12 questions for the School Board
8:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Staff summary of SB feedback
8:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Timeline and communication plan● Related considerations and next steps
9:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Adjourn



Framing tonight's discussion

Staff is seeking the School Board's help in shaping the community engagement process

Please

- raise questions as we move through the agenda
- help us stick to our schedule
- during SB Questions, we want to know
 - if there is agreement OR
 - where the SB needs more information and further conversation



Definitions

- In alignment with the 2014 Master Planning Process, we are using “**options**” to describe schools with different admissions policies
- **Exemplary projects** are school-centered focus areas developed by schools to meet the specific needs and interests of their students and community
- **Equitable** having or exhibiting equity: dealing fairly and equally with all concerned (source: Merriam-Webster Dictionary)



The School Board's Charge

Update policy

- 25-2.2 Enrollment and Transfers for Schools and Programs



The School Board's Charge

Expectations for the proposed policy revisions

- reflect a **balance** of neighborhood and “**option**” schools
- ensure **equitable access** to options that are available to all Arlington residents
- **simplify** the process of school selection and make it easy to communicate
- define a **schedule** for implementation, with all changes fully implemented by 2018-19



The School Board's Charge

The Superintendent will

- **propose initial policy revisions** and provide rationale that includes supporting data on
 - applications for enrollment in and transfers, and
 - enrollment and demographic information
- facilitate a robust process that **seeks input and feedback** from existing advisory committees and the wider community
- **propose final policy revisions** to the School Board for implementation in 2018-19



Guiding Principles for the Updates

Balance neighborhood and “**options**”

Provide **equitable** access to options that are available to all residents

Simplify the policy and make it easy for

- everyone to understand and
- SB and staff to **communicate** the intent



Guiding Principles for the Updates

Engage the community and present recommendations that clearly reflect

- input from those who participate directly, while
- balancing the need of the entire community

Standardize transfer processes

Schedule the work to align with other initiatives

Provide an open and **transparent** update process



**Staff recommendations
for the scope of
the community engagement
process**

**School Board response
will shape the approach**



Questions for the School Board

Staff recommendation #1

Simplify the policy statements and move procedural steps to PIPs



Questions for the School Board

Staff recommendation #2

Retitle the policies to better **communicate** what is addressed

Examples:

25-2.1 from Admissions and Placement
to **Admissions and Enrollment**

25-2.2 from Enrollment & Transfers for Schools & Programs
to **Transfers and Options**



Questions for the School Board

Staff recommendation #3

Simplify the policy by separating the information into two policies for

- Kindergarten through grade 12 and
- PreKindergarten

Note:

- K-12 governed by VDOE, PreK is optional
- Process must ensure that separate policies align for students moving from PreK to K



Questions for the School Board

Staff recommendation #4

Schedule updates to fit with other initiatives

- PreK to grade 5 transfers in spring 2017
- grade 6 through 12 in fall 2017

Notes:

- Finish High School Experience Redesign before making changes
- This may impact how the order of the two boundary processes scheduled for 2017-18



Questions for the School Board

The next series of recommendations address the sections within policy 25-2.2



Questions for the School Board

Staff recommendation #5

Policy Section: School Assignment

Simplify the policy and remove redundant information that is addressed in other policies

Note:

This section repeats information found in policies

- 25-2.1 (Admission and Placement) and
- 20 (Goals)



Questions for the School Board

Staff recommendation #6

Policy Section: Neighborhood School Transfers

Simplify the policy and remove the employee professional courtesy transfer, which is not **equitable**



Questions for the School Board

Staff recommendation #7

Policy Section: Preschool

- Address Montessori transfers in this process
- **Simplify** the policy by moving procedural steps to PIP

Note:

- A separate process is addressing Montessori program decisions



Questions for the School Board

Staff recommendation #8

Policy Section: APS Area and Countywide Schools and Programs

- **Balance** neighborhood and “**options**”
- Provide **equitable** access to options that are available to all residents



School Types in Current Policy

Neighborhood	Neighborhood/ Option	Option
Abingdon Ashlawn Barcroft Carlin Springs Discovery Glebe Long Branch McKinley Nottingham Oakridge Patrick Henry Tuckahoe	Barrett Campbell Claremont Immersion Drew Hoffman-Boston Randolph Team <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Jamestown● Key Immersion● Arlington Science Focus● Taylor	Arlington Traditional



Questions for the School Board

Staff recommendation #9

Policy Section: APS Area and Countywide Schools and Programs

Simplify the policy and **standardize** processes for

- Lotteries
 - different by school, ensure they are equitable
 - sibling preference
- Waiting lists
- Immersion
 - ensuring 50/50 balance of English and Spanish speakers



Questions for the School Board

Staff recommendation #10

Standardize and move ahead with central registration, ensure **simple equitable communication** about neighborhood and options school, *and transportation* to all families

Note:

- Too much information is currently dependent upon individual interpretation of policy across APS schools and departments



Questions for the School Board

Staff recommendation #11

Policy Section: Other Suggestion

Simplify by moving procedural steps to PIP and where possible **standardize** the following which complicate the policy

- siblings
- transportation
- neighborhood school walk zones

Note:

Keep policy section “Reporting of Enrollment and Appeals” in place since it meets the criteria defined by the charge



Questions for the School Board

Staff recommendation #12

Determine if current options ensure **equitable** access for all Arlington residents, if not include options specific recommendations in Superintendent's proposal



Summary of School Board Feedback

Recommendations	Yes/No
1. Simplify the policy move procedural steps to PIPs	
2. Retitle the policies to better communicate goals	
3. Simplify by separating information into separate K-12 and PreK policies	
4. Schedule updates to fit with other initiatives	
5. Simplify and remove redundant information addressed in other policies <i>or within the policy</i>	
6. Simplify and remove the employee professional courtesy transfer (not equitable)	
7. Address Montessori transfers in this process and simplify	
8. Balance neighborhood and “ options ”, provide equitable access for all residents	
9. Simplify and standardize processes for Lotteries, Waiting Lists, Immersion <i>and Transportation</i>	
10. Standardize and move ahead with central registration, ensure simple equitable communication school information to all families	
11. Simplify and where possible standardize siblings, transportations and neighborhood walk zones	
12. Determine if current options are equitable , and if needed, recommend changes	



Tentative Timeframe/Communication Plan

School Board Deliberations of Policy 25.2-2

Focusing on PreK to Grade 5

Jan.	9	Work Session
Feb.	2	SB Meeting - Monitoring item (scope/approach)
	TBD	<i>Work Session</i>
March	TBD	<i>If needed SB Meeting - Update</i>
	TBD	<i>Work Session</i>
April	TBD	<i>If needed SB Meeting - Update</i>
	TBD	<i>Work Session</i>
May	4	SB Meeting - Information Item (recommendations)
	18	SB Meeting - Public Hearing
June	1	SB Meeting - Action Item



Tentative Timeframe/Communication Plan

Community Deliberations of Policy 25.2-2

Jan.	23	Publish Initial Draft of Policy for discussion Communication blasts, web page fully developed
Feb.	All month	“Getting Started” meetings The same information will be presented and at each meeting Community meetings with all identified groups
March	10	Publish Second Draft of Policy for discussion
March April	15- 17	“Review of Revisions” meetings The same information will be presented and at each meeting Community meetings with all identified groups
April	19	Publish Final Draft of Policy for discussion



Tentative Timeframe/Communication Plan

Outreach to the community and

Outreach to existing Advisory Committees

- Advisory Council on Instruction(ACI)
- Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Projects (FAC)
- Budget Advisory Council (BAC)
- County Council of PTAs (CCPTAs)
- Student Advisory Board
- School Health Advisory Board
- Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Eliminating the Achievement Gap
- Arlington Montessori Advisory Committee
- **Others . . . please help us identify**



Tentative Timeframe/Communication Plan

Key messages being developed
*will reflect the School Board's feedback at
tonight's work session*

For now, direct questions to
www.apsva.us/transfer-policy-revisions/



Next steps and other considerations

Staff will

- plan for community engagement
 - draft policy revisions and PIPs, provide rationale
 - shape community input process
 - reach out to identified groups
 - publish details by January 23
- assess impact of proposed revisions on other policies, transportation, budget