



On Election Day, November 2, Arlington voters will be asked to approve \$102.8 million in school bonds to renew and expand our schools. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions about the 2010 bond.

How will the school bonds be used?

The 2010 school bond funds will be used by Arlington Public Schools (APS) for:

- ◆ Construction of Wakefield High School (\$84.2 million)
- ◆ Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning (HVAC) Improvements (\$11.6 million)
- ◆ Roofing Improvements (\$4.7 million)
- ◆ Fiber Cable Installation (\$2.3 million)

Wakefield High School Project

What will be the capacity of the new Wakefield High School? How many students are projected to be at Wakefield High School when the new school opens? Since Wakefield High School's enrollment is projected to grow and other high schools are already crowded, why wasn't a larger high school planned?

The new Wakefield High School building will be approximately 386,000 square feet and designed to house 1,600 students. Current enrollment projections anticipate 1,428 Wakefield students attending in the fall of 2013. The new building will provide 68,000 additional square feet over the current building.

APS is not constructing a bigger school because the new building can accommodate as many as 1,850 students if all classrooms are used for instruction more than five of the seven available periods each day. This will provide sufficient space for projected student enrollment growth for the near future. Additionally, the land available cannot accommodate a high school larger than that. While APS could add another story of classrooms, there isn't sufficient land to provide room for the common areas such as a gym, cafeteria, and library or to meet the increased need for parking.



Will funding for the Yorktown High School project be diverted to the new Wakefield High School Project?

No Yorktown project funding will be used for the Wakefield project. However, because of the favorable construction market when APS went out to bid for Yorktown, the construction costs of Yorktown are lower than the funds approved by the voters in the 2008 bond. Therefore, some of the remaining bond authority (permission to sell bonds) from the 2008 referendum has been used to reduce the amount of bond authority being requested in the 2010 referendum for the Wakefield project.

How much would the Wakefield High School project cost if APS delayed the start of construction until July 2012? January 2014?

Construction on the Wakefield project is scheduled to begin in July 2011. While starting the project earlier means APS will incur the debt on the project earlier, school officials asked professional construction project estimators to provide estimates of what the Wakefield project might cost if APS needed to delay the start of construction. While these are only estimates, the experts have said that based upon their experience, they expect construction costs to begin to increase in future years.

- ◆ If construction begins in July 2012, rather than July 2011, they estimate APS could pay an additional \$15.4 million on the project.
- ◆ If construction begins in January 2014, they estimate APS could pay an additional \$23.8 million on the project.

Other Questions

Besides Wakefield, what are the other projects funded in the 2010 bond?

Wakefield is the first priority, but APS must continue to maintain all other buildings. Funds are included in the 2010 bond for:

- ♦ HVAC Improvements (\$11.6 million) – Work to be performed includes replacement of chillers, boilers and water towers in a number of APS buildings to ensure our buildings provide a comfortable climate for student learning.
- ♦ Roof Improvements (\$4.7 million) – Partial or complete roof replacements will be undertaken in a number of APS buildings.
- ♦ Fiber Cable Installation (\$2.3 million) – As a result of the end of the franchise agreement with Comcast in 2013, the County is planning now to ensure they have options to provide a cable network to County and School buildings. APS is collaborating with the County on this project, and these funds reflect a portion of APS's share of the cost to provide fiber optic cable to meet future APS communication needs.

How does this bond and added debt impact the County's triple A (AAA) bond rating?

While receiving a AAA rating in the future is never a guarantee, conservative assumptions were used in developing the 2010 bond referenda. The County's objective in determining the referenda was to maintain a solid financial position which is both sustainable, and which meets the rating agencies guidelines for receiving a AAA rating in the future.

Arlington Public Schools Capital Improvement Plan – 1988 to Present

The following APS projects have been funded with School Bond proceeds since 1988.

24 Renewals and/or Expansions

Abingdon ES
Arlington Science Focus ES
Arlington Traditional ES
Ashlawn ES
Barcroft ES
Barrett ES
Campbell ES
Claremont ES
Glebe ES
Gunston MS
H-B Woodlawn Secondary
Henry ES
Jamestown ES
Key ES
Long Branch ES
McKinley ES
Nottingham ES
Oakridge ES
Randolph ES

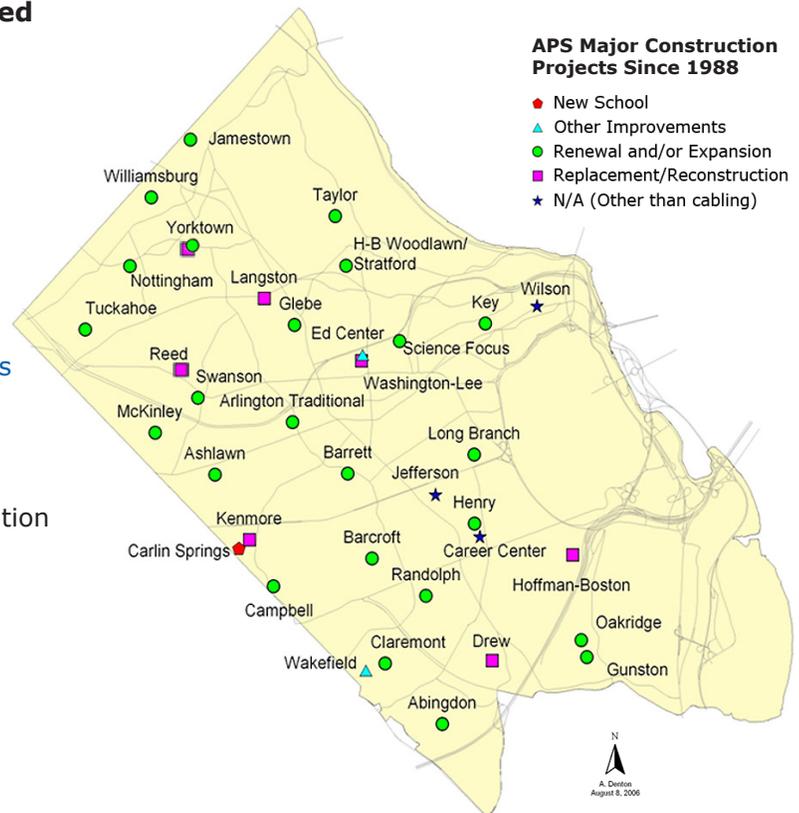
Swanson MS
Taylor ES
Tuckahoe ES
Williamsburg MS
Yorktown HS Phase I

7 Replacement/Reconstruction Projects

Drew ES
Hoffman-Boston ES
Kenmore MS
Reed/Westover
Langston HS Continuation
Washington-Lee HS
Yorktown HS

1 New School

Carlin Springs ES



For information on school bonds or the Capital Improvement Plan, call 703-228-6125 or review the 2011-2016 CIP on the APS Web site at www.apsva.us/budget/CIP/.

To comment, e-mail schoolbd@arlington.k12.va.us