

**Let us know if you have other suggestions or ideas on the revisions to the Enrollment and Transfer policy.**

List of option schools should be in the policy
All neighborhood schools should be within their neighborhood.....redraw some boundary lines Adjust the boundary lines for schools such as ASFS, which does not sit within its 'neighborhood'. Expand ASFS into a split school of lower and upper by retrofitting the Burk buildings. This could expand the population of ASFS to include the Key attendance zone and the 'walking zone'. One community, one PTA, two principals and two staff that could adjust as needed between the two buildings
Whatever you do, I'd like for you to think hard about the economic and racial diversity problem between S. Arlington and N. Arlington schools.
Drew Montessori should have the same policies as ATS or Campbell
1) Indicate that siblings must be guaranteed admission to ASFS no matter what school zone they are currently in. Sibling preference is not enough. 2) Students currently receiving bussing to ASFS should maintain their APS transportation. 3) All neighborhood schools must have a walk zone - If ASFS is to become a neighborhood school as proposed, it is essential that a walk zone be created around the school.
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My primary concern is that siblings must be guaranteed admission to ASFS no matter what school zone they are currently in. Sibling preference is not enough.
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Please guarantee that siblings must be admitted to ASFS no matter what school zone they are currently in. It will be impossible to manage taking kids to two different schools, handle activities, pick-ups, etc.
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I like the current neighborhood school / options for key/ASFS, etc. Parents settled where they live based on the school choices they have. Changing that midstream for their children is disruptive.

The Montessori elementary program should have a lottery for 1st grade admission that treats as equal all students that have Montessori primary (preschool) experience, whether they are coming from Drew, another APS primary class, or a private Montessori school. If not, APS should allocate sufficient spots in the elementary program for children coming from private classes or other APS satellites. A 2/3 low income preference is not appropriate for elementary in the way it is for preschool.

I don't see any questions regarding the Zone 1 and Zone 2 immersion program proposal so I will address it here. I think the Immersion Elementary/Middle/High school progression plan is poorly designed. It unnecessarily increases transportation logistics and costs, and breaks up communities. Additionally, there is no information about the benefit (if any) to the students who would be affected by the draft changes.

**1) Siblings should have guaranteed spots**

There should be a countywide vocational/technical education program for students to cannot pass a TOEFL exam before high school.

Siblings, even if they live at different domiciles should be allowed under the sibling policy, assuming both residences are in Arlington County. The costs to children and parents are significant if they are sent to different schools. At the same time, there are so few siblings falling in this category that this poses little to no cost to Arlington County. (I have previously confirmed this with the Superintendent.) Does Arlington really want to decide who are family?

If seats/capacity is the issue we are trying to solve, then perhaps we switch ASFS to Key's location so the boundaries don't have to change & ASFS can enroll more students. Furthermore, ASFS should remain an option school- its demand exceeds capacity (i.e. Lottery applicants), 20% of student population are from lottery/team schools, & it's an exemplary, award-winning curriculum.

All neighborhood schools must have a walk zone - If ASFS is to become a neighborhood school as proposed, it is essential that a walk zone be created around the school.

You need to eliminate the preference for Arlington Primary Montessori students to attend Arlington's Lower Elementary Montessori program. Having a income preference makes sense for 3, 4 and 5 year olds. Carrying that preference over to the lower elementary levels does not however. No other county wide program has an income preference, neither should this one. Anyone with prior Montessori experience should be in the same group for lottery purposes.

Allow for more options for those few neighborhood schools that are not performing at the same level as most APS schools.

1) siblings must be guaranteed admission to the same school no matter what school zone they are currently in. Sibling preference is not enough.

Make Randolph an option school (rather than neighborhood school) for the IB program, and zone the kids in the current Randolph zone to the new Patrick Henry - this would likely prompt a lot more families to stay in-zone rather than requesting transfers, and would diversify the Randolph student body and raise performance. Sending the current Randolph zone to Drew or Barcroft would not help these problems.

Elementary lottery spots should reserve seats (adjusted annually) for schools with overcrowding to encourage more balanced capacity.

These changes are overly complicated and unnecessary. Keep neighborhood schools with the few countywide or zone-wide lottery programs. I would keep HB, Claremont & Key. I would eliminate Montessori all together (not really part of APS curriculum), eliminate ATS and make it a neighborhood school. Keep the new Tech center and Career center. FOCUS ON NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS and keep choice to a minimum.

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<p>I am writing to express my concerns with the most current proposed changes to APS policies and procedures, particularly those that could have a significant impact on ASFS.</p>
<p>The proposed policies do not acknowledge or address that Science Focus is different from the other neighborhood schools because it is not located within the neighborhood that it is designed to serve. This means that a policy that may seem reasonable for other neighborhood schools is actually unfair with respect to Science Focus. It is imperative that you maintain the "team school" approach and ensure that students can live near Science Focus and walk to school.</p>
<p>This is a huge opportunity to help address diversity/integration of all kinds. Refusing to deal with that will hurt all of you in subsequent elections. Our most successful high school has the balance that represents the total population. You can make this happen in every option school and give a diversity preference in transfers among zoned schools. It IS more complicated, but the rewards real.</p>
<p>I think the option schools at the primary level should all have some sort of neighborhood/"walkable" zone. it could be lessened to .5 mile if needed to allow more space for county wide attendance to relieve pressure in other schools, but there should always be some amount of preference for neighborhood at the primary school level which is foundational for the development of the children. it is less of an issue as students are older and more independent.</p>
<p>Every kid in Arlington should have the same options as every other kid, not limited by living in disfavored neighborhoods as is now the policy.</p>
<p>This idea to split the country east/west to try and adjust diverse enrollment is illogical. What types of studies have been conducted to analyze transportation issues and the costs associated with such transportation? Have you even had broad community based discussions about the feasibility of this idea? It was dropped into the discussion abruptly and presented as the only answer.</p>
<p>There is too much focus on choice and we need to make sure all of the neighborhood schools are community based and all meet high standards...stop making special programs the focus.</p>
<p>Update the appeal language to be transparent and accountable for parents. The Superintendent or representative should provide appeal decisions in writing detailing rationale for appeal decision and how that decision was derived. Parents need this to determine the step of appealing to the school board if they disagree with the appeal decision.</p>