

Elementary Schools

- Neighborhood schools
- One Option School in each zone: Immersion, IB
- Countywide Option Schools: ATS, Campbell and Montessori

Strengths	Challenges	Other Thoughts
	Why do the ES not offer STEAM Option schools, since the MS do?	Do students in Immersion ES automatically get guaranteed spots in Immersion programs in MS? If so, are there going to be any spaces left for students who have just had FLES in ES? OR, will those students even be prepared enough to participate in Immersion at the MS level? - Would you actually need 2 different MS Immersion tracks? -- 1 track for those who have had ES immersion and 1 for those who have not? And, if that, would the MS students first being exposed to Immersion be at a disadvantage?
simplify process for transfers and improve understanding of different options	do NOT enter every student automatically in lottery for option schools, this should only be opt-in for families interested in specific options	
Nice to have options outside of the neighborhood school		This is a strength in Arlington to offer various approaches to education at the elementary level
Sounds good		Don't divide Immersion schools by East/West - some sort of N/S division works better to keep bus times to a minimum. Also, give priority to students who live within a 1 mile walking radius of the Immersion ES's to promote walking, health for kids, and reduce bus/car pollution.
		1) 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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		All neighborhood schools must have a walk zone - If ASFS is to become a neighborhood school, it is essential that a walk zone be created around the school.
Campbell should definitely be a county-wide option.	Please don't make every neighborhood elementary school STEAM - allow for focus on arts and humanities too. Focus on growing programs where you have demonstrated demand/interest (for example, Immersion, Expeditionary Learning, Montessori).	The new elementary school at Reed should be a neighborhood school; neighborhood capacity is desperately needed in that area. There is no demand for elementary IB. Focus on growing programs where there are already wait lists - Campbell, Montessori. Build the previously planned addition onto ATS.
Provide a blend of neighborhood and option schools	Students within walking distance from ASFS should be allowed to attend, regardless of where boundaries are drawn.	Walkability is the essence of what Arlington stands for. To have us bus to another school when we are an 8 minute walk to ASFS and our son is already there is ridiculous.
seems balanced overall for long-term plan	very concerned about transition - grandfather sibling admissions & maintain transportation for current families	
Option schools in each zone is a fair and equitable ideal		I am afraid by the time all of these extra schools are built you will be past the elementary school bubble. Design schools for flexibility
cohesive, simple, equitable		

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		Just stop it with the STEAM nonsense. Whole Children don't need an "instructional focus." They need recess.
Less preferential access.	Less choice for some neighborhoods. Siblings. Keeping neighborhoods together while finding walking zones. elementary schools are not evenly spread out across the County. Trying to ensure a walking zone around every elementary school would necessarily result in splitting up other neighborhoods and some strange school zones.	Some pta suggested responses to this survey do not represent the views of all parents or all affected neighborhoods.
Neighborhood attendance areas	Immersion option schools	Have a countywide option school focusing on world languages, not just Spanish. Native Spanish speakers should not be given special preference over native speakers of other languages.
logical if you were starting from scratch, but doesn't address	does not deal with significant overcrowding at McKinley that exists right NOW.	does not address the need for green space at these new schools
lots of neighborhood schools and lots of other options		

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Lots of options	lots of options	class size should be the same at each program. example: currently Arlington Tech lists "smaller class sizes than the comprehensive high schools" as one of its selling points. This is not acceptable to provide a choice school with more resources than any other school because it will ultimately be a lottery, not a choice.
People won't get more options	Option should be in magnet school	magnet school/science -stem schools needed
	Why keep ats Campbell and Montessori as countywide? Seems hard on transportation routes.	Discourage driving as much as possible for elementary - walking/biking school bus with safety patrols and parent volunteers? Key and ASFS should serve as neighborhood schools given distance to other aps programs.
none	increased transportation logistics and travel time for immersion kids when they transition from ES to MS	how would my Claremont child benefit by being routed to Williamsburg MS and Yorktown HS when Gunston and Wakefield are geographically closer to my home?

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None	The community clearly prefers neighborhood schools at the elementary level so this proposal is a poor fit for what residents are looking for from APS. Nobody wants to have IB at the elementary level--much more appropriate at the high school level. There are already too many choice schools and these create a great deal of problems among neighbors plus add to transportation costs and traffic. Really bad idea	The community is asked to provide feedback on these concepts without any data or any estimated budgets associated with them. Why? What if we're talking about things we cannot afford. Also, did APS pay attention to the survey you just did that showed 67% of respondents want neighborhood schools at the elementary level? If you are paying attention, then how does your proposal reflect this feedback? If you're not paying attention, then why do you keep asking the community to do surveys?
Clearer than the current situation with feeder schools, more transparent and fair in offerings.	ASF might not be best fit as neighborhood school for all students as it has a focus as I understand it. Two immersion schools are not sufficient as county grows. There is a strong demand for immersion.	Need process for students who arrive in older grades, including Arlington residents who are overseas with Foreign Service, Military, etc. Students coming from spanish speaking countries should be able to get into immersion, which now does happen because Key is also a neighborhood school. This needs to be continued.
Overall concept is ok	I would like to see more strength through neighborhood schools	I don't like the East/West division. I think it should be broken down by 3 zones similiar to high school boundaries.

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Decreases some of the complexity that exists currently	Unclear why we continue to need ATS and Campbell	Overall, this plan lacks a vision - it presents no goal for outcomes in 5 or 10 years. It is purely planning driven to meet enrollment needs and is a remarkably disappointing effort without being framed within a bigger strategic vision and mapping tactics (what is presented here) to those goals.
Simplifies and makes elementary education options more equitable across the county.	Does not address the historic anachronism of a using what by recent population location and density should already be a neighborhood school (Key elementary) as a special theme school.	If ASFS (Science Focus) is to be a neighborhood school, it's boundaries must be extended west, south and north. If kids are already being bused from Rosslyn to ASFS today more elementary and then even farther away to Williamsburg for middle school, switching them to Taylor from ASFS should not be a big deal. Its a few minutes more down the road and no more in their neighborhood than where they go now. Currently, kids whose live less than block from ASFS take a bus to Taylor from 14th and Lincoln
	N.Arlington schools have too much PTA money and creates unfair advantage no matter what the option schools are doing.	Still separates wealth from diversity
		Why no STEAM at elementary? Like idea of neighborhood school, but my neighborhood school would be a mile away and not walkable.

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	The current demand in the immersion schools is too great for just 2 schools to absorb. APS should create a third elementary immersion site	With the increasing diversity and global focus in Arlington, immersion is an important area of growth and opportunity that should not be artificially capped in just 2 sites
		When did the school board vote to eliminate ASFS as an option school? According to Dr. Natrick at the Yorktown community forum, an option school must meet 2 criteria: 1) philosophically different; 2) unique curriculum. ASFS is an exemplary, award-winning school for science education which cannot be replicated by simply building a science lab in other eke Taft schools to deem it "stem" or "steam". Furthermore, key school lacked demand/was under enrolled in its neighborhood & team.

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	This approach devalues the award-winning Arlington Science Focus curriculum by treating it as functionally equivalent to any other neighborhood school; if this is evaluated fairly, in an open and transparent manner, it will result in either the need to add another "ASFS"-like elementary school in the other zone, or elevating ASFS to a countywide option	There is no clear standard or method of determining what constitutes an "option" for a zone, or countywide "option" program; as such, this appears a bit "cart before the horse" as it purports to offer equitable access to high quality schools that haven't been proven to offer comparable results
It looks viable, but the details need to be communicated.	What are the sizes of these schools? In order to maintain a strong countywide program, need to work with the community to make sure they have the resources to preserve the integrity of the program.	Why can't students from an option elementary school go to HBW? It hardly seems fair when students from the Montessori and Immersion schools can go to HBW.
None	Why immersion and IB? Does anyone actually want IB in elementary? How much demand is there for immersion? How about more Montessori and Campbell.	

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Still allows for countywide options	Campbell is not guaranteed as an alternative for Carlin Springs and CS students need other options	Sibling preference is maintained and is important
	Seems there is no other neighborhood school for Roslyn so ASFS would become overpopulated even beyond what exists today.	
more options	There is no science focus school - "STEM" programs currently offered at some schools don't mean anything.	
Seems to create equitable access regardless of where you live.	With growing enrollment, is one option school (for IB, immersion, etc) going to be enough?	
None	I am strongly opposed; there must be one school in APS that takes STEM to higher level than all other schools.	ASFS should NOT be a neighborhood school; make it the same category as ATS.
creating an opportunity for neighborhood school at ASFS	need to have a walking zone around asfs; concerned about overcrowding an already crowded school	siblings must be guaranteed placement - sibling preference is not enough.

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	Is there demand or interest in IB elementary? Does data support that? Please focus on neighborhood schools.	Countywide options should adjust admissions annually to offer more K lottery spots to schools with overcrowding.
equal access to across county	transportation; competition at an earlier age; too many options that aren't needed	with multiple options of elementary schools, you lose the neighborhood connectedness --possible that neighbors go to 2-3 different schools; except for Immersion, no need to differentiate IB and STEAM-should be part of all schools
Gifted Students need to be challenge and expanding those options to a wider community of Arlington Children is always a good thing.	Selection process or lottery? These schools tend to breed the egostical attitudes that exists in Arlington, so selection process needs to be clear with no gray areas.	
It allows people to a learning concept that is right for their child.	There is not enough space for everyone to take advantage of the opportunities. Because enrollment is capped at countywide school they never experience overcrowding.	There is unfairness regarding the overcrowding issue in neighborhood school. Class sizes a my elementary are larger than the county wide school due to space constraints. I think kids a county wide schools are getting preferential treatment related to crowding issues.

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Neighborhood schools reinforce a sense of community but can become very insular if residents do not participate in County affairs.	Option schools also a small County to provide a range of opportunities as long as planners do not accept transportation limitations.	APS and County residents should use the geographic strength of being a very small county as a basis for County-wide solutions in education. By focusing on equal opportunities in zones, we are strengthening divisions akin to separate but equal. While there is a certain appeal for people that want to have a gated community approach to neighborhoods, is this the Arlington that we want to promote? I think not. My sons who attended Arlington schools liked the fact that they had friends everywhere.
Like this concept. I think it offers a good array of programs and options		
I like the idea of having an immersion option in each zone.	Is there demand for elementary IB? Do people know what it is?	I like having choices because no one school is perfect for every child. Different kids will thrive in different environments. I have two kids and plan to send them to different schools because their personalities & interests are different (my oldest is doing great at his neighborhood school, Abingdon, while I think my youngest will do better in immersion and I hope to send her to Claremont when she reaches K)
none	too complicated and unnecessary...	keep neighborhood schools with a handful of zone-choice (immersion for North & South Arlington for elementary) and HB and Tech/Career Center and eliminate all other choice (including Montessori)

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Neighborhood schools are best for keeping a community feeling in this very populated county, there will be more walkers which drives bus costs down and is more environmentally friendly. Keeping a few county wide option schools is good for people who want choice, though in a budget crunch, I would make all schools neighborhood schools, and the bussing costs would be a lot lower. I have kids in	The problem with county wide schools is bussing- I am amazed to find how many 1 student bus stops there are for a kid who lives in my district (Discovery) and goes to Key or ATS. I think this is an absolute waste of money and pollutes the air	neighborhood schools build community
I like the idea that children can focus on a particular area of interest.	Making sure children get into the schools they want to attend and that adequate space is available. Also, making sure that teachers with the requisite skill sets are hired may also prove to be a challenge.	If resources are tight, I would not necessarily propose doing IB at the elementary level.
Retains expeditionary learning option	Continues homogenization of Arlington schools	

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Kindergarden and Pre-K should be intentionally made legible in these programs.	The wait list for option elementary schools is ridiculous because families think they want something different than what is standard because their kids are oh so special.	Though popular now, Immersion programs may promote bias and favoritism. Where are arts, environment and athletics adressed in these options?
Blends are sensible.	Alignment below high school level is problematic: why silo elementary school pupils, and how recruit specialists at that and middle school levels?	Recruit the best available teachers period; don't over-specialize them or young students.
I strongly support the expansion of IB to be available countywide at the elementary level. I also strongly support the expansion of the immersion programs.		Consider treating ATS and the other options in the same way as IB and Immersion, with one option in each zone.
		An elementary IB school? That is redictulous. The school system needs to concerntrate on the basics and making certain that every student in the system can read and write at their own grade level at a mimimum.
Stronger neighbor hood schools build stronger communities.	Overcoming perceptions that south Arlington is lesser. Randolph is in the same bucket as Wakefield due to high minority demographics	Is IB really a consideration of ES parents?

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		Oppose, just neighborhood schools with current north/south boundary...
	Each school should have immersion for children who can take on the challenge. I am not a fan of teaching the teacher method for gifted students.	
Not happy about more option schools	they aren't available to everyone and create a two tiered system in which some experience overcrowding and others	Option schools with capped enrollments are morally indefensible in a situation of ongoing and sustained overcrowding
	the idea of this policy would be more acceptable if there were not specific schools slated for the Immersion and IB programs	Is ATS really any different an instructional focus than most of our schools? Any new schools built should be neighborhood schools; repurpose older buildings for option programs;
	Unsure that an elementary IB is really needed.	Having two IB programs within 2 blocks of each other (Reed/Swanson) doesn't seem equitable for others in the county. Also logistically it doesn't make a lot of sense; suggest moving the elementary IB to another location/in south arlington to more equitably spread access to others in the community.
neighborhood schools, IB as an option	option schools create inequity in the system as a whole, parents shouldn't be able to "shop around"	all schools should be neighborhood schools and options should be eliminated; the options are creating a lot of inequity in the system

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		Keep neighborhood schools the focus. It is frustrating to see the school board trying to change the demographics of schools through programs being offered.
Keeps neighborhood schools and offers some choice	I don't believe that IB will be very popular at the elementary level.	
		forget about East/West Boundaries. Concentrate on more schools which are desperately needed. Also the student teacher ratio is growing which is negative towards our children's education. Concentrate on building great neighborhood schools that are close to each population. All kids should get the best education possible within their community. You don't need a specialty school for each child.
It's a new concept, and I like that it's all split E/W rather than N/S. I also hope that Reed opens as an option school, whatever the focus. Otherwise, it's going to be yet another highly segregated Arlington school because the neighborhood is not economically or	You're going to get a lot of people who've invested in the N/S divide, and invested in "neighborhood" schools upset about a change in status quo. But it's time to make a change. It can't wait.	Hold firm to the E/W split. It's an embarrassment that a county as wealthy and liberal as ours looks the other way when it comes to de facto segregation.

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It makes sense to change the legacy enrollment process		Consideration should be given to ensuring that the enrollment for schools are for children in the neighborhood 1st to relieve traffic issues, ridiculous that ASFS does not serve those that are in walking distance to the school