

Defines who is responsible for transportation (for students who live outside of the school's defined walk zone) APS provides transportation for students • attending their neighborhood school or • admitted to an option school Parents/guardians are responsible for transportation when their student transfers to another neighborhood school Note: When needed, APS may provide "transportation waivers" to balance enrollment

Strengths	Challenges	Other thoughts
Makes it very clear; I hope APS will consider not only distance but also safety in defining a walk zone	No concerns	
Sounds good		
Stop putting high schoolers on yellow busses. Work with ART.	I think if a student transfers to a neighborhood school adjacent to their neighborhood school you can provide transportation.	I think if a parent transfers from one to another neighborhood school due to crowding or year-round calendar or other issues like that then transportation should be offered -- or APS needs to fix the issue. Make all neighborhood schools great. And sorry, they are not equally great.
reasonable	none for APS	i think it's fair
Completely agree. Makes more sense economically and efficiency so bus drivers aren't going all over the county	parents who think they are entitled to transportation regardless of where their kids go	I really think there needs to be less bus service catering to families who choose to go outside their neighborhood school
This is fine.		

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For Claremont Zoned families that attend Key (because it was offered by APS to these families) this will create equal access to bussing for these students. The Dr. Meyer's is constantly telling families not to drive to Key because it presents as a danger, but Claremont zoned families that attend Key are DENIED bus access. Taxpayers in APS schools that are denied bus access after they were offered Key by APS itself. Huge Problem that will be fixed.

This needs to be fixed as soon as possible. Equal bus access for all option schools is the right thing to do!

That is very helpful if we need to balance enrollment

I feel APS would have to give the option of transportation to those that choose to transfer neighborhood schools due to overcrowding

The transportation cost having children crossing the county

Transportation is a challenge for poor families, and also working families. By restricting transportation, basically you're saying that transfers are a privilege for wealthy, stay-at-home mom Arlington families.

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Sounds fine, unless there is a social or behavioral issue that merits the transfer to another school, in which case APS should be willing to cover transportation.

Simple, straightforward. That's good. Appears to make a clear distinction between neighborhood and option school.

None

Does not appear to address special situations, such as the current group of Kinder and 1st graders at Key who live in Claremont zones and have no bus service. Will this group get bus service? Also, in the future, does the policy allow APS to make the call for these "special cases" that may arise? Or will staff have to go the Board for an exhaustive policy change? I read the text in the proposed policies and was not clear on this point.

Very confusing. What happens to current students at Science Focus who live within one of the Team school boundaries?

Again, will this change provide buses for the special cohort of Kinder and 1st graders at Key who live in Claremont zones? You can make that decision right now, regardless of how the rest of the proposed changes unfold. C'mon, offer bus service in fall 2017!! You don't have to come right to our houses; we can meet a bus at centralized collection points. I regularly drive by a Key bus on the way to drop off my son.

You should make it clear whether you will grandfather current Science Focus students who live in districts covered by the Team school districts. In 2018, are you going to make a rising Science Focus third grader move to Taylor -- even if she currently walks to Science Focus

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		<p>This should e reviewed on a case by case basis. There may be some good reasons why a child is attending a different school and the Board's posture should be helpful.</p>
<p>Clarifies transportation availability</p>		
<p>generally this is a good policy when there is balance of enrollment across the county</p>	<p>The transfer to a neighborhood school that has available seats should be offered transportation if you are freeing up space that is overcapacity at your neighborhood school. So, you are doing the county a favor by moving, therefore, you should get transportation.</p>	<p>It doesn't mention anything about age. In my mind, the younger the kid, the more important that transportation be offered. So, in elementary and middle school, more transportation should be offered, even for transfers, but not for all high school transfers.</p>
<p>Fair and logical</p>	<p>Barcroft Elementary's year round calendar is difficult for many families. I suggest consideration for a waiver on this required for a Barcroft transfer to Randolph or Barrett.</p>	
<p>The school should prioritize capacity and effective teaching, and leaving parents and free market might give some flexilibty.</p>		
		<p>Explicitly state that Arlington prioritizes the ability for children to walk to their school. Too many kids are being bussed.</p>

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	<p>For Science Focus, transportation should continue to be provided to students who live in the Taylor and Jamestown areas. This includes students who have moved into the neighboring district, students who have been grandfathered, and siblings of grandfathered students.</p>	
		<p>Transportion should be made available as currently provide to grndfathered lottery students and siblings</p>
<p>Allocates transportation for students who really need it</p>	<p>If some students are grandfathered in to current school, might affect their transportation situation</p>	<p>Please redefine "walk zone" for Science Focus. Currently it doesn't include most of the walkable community.</p>
<p>I think this makes sense</p>		<p>I am assuming this will not apply for children placed at another school (ex. because of a disability)</p>
<p>ALL students should be at the right school for them. Transportation is costly but for many students it is the only way they can get to school.</p>	<p>Managing budgts</p>	
<p>None</p>	<p>APS should be responsible for its kids.</p>	
		<p>Fine</p>

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Makes sense.		Why use "admitted" in second bullet? Please be more precise. Make both "enrolled" or "attending". Given that this includes middle and high schools, shouldn't the term be "zoned" school, rather than neighborhood school?
increases transparency, consistency, and fairness. improves efficiency.	ensure waiver process is fair and reasonable.	people may complain, but that's part of life.
seems fair. limits which buses may have to go countywide (options school buses only)	Exception should be need for Special Ed or other special needs	
makes clear the policy		
Allows for efficient transportation plannig	option schools may involve transporting students from one end of the county to the other, special attention in route planning is needed	Transportation waivers should be granted to students transferring to balance enrollment. For example, for students admitted to Claremont, but for whom space is lacking- if they are offered a place at Key they should be able to ride a bus
Clear, will help low-income students go to option schools	Seems unfair that only families with time, money and vehicles can take advantage of the neighborhood transfer opportunity	Whatever happens, APS should be bussing kids going to Key currently zoned for Claremont Immersion

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		<p>Please provide transportation to neighborhood schools if children can walk to the nearest bus stop for the transfer school. There are many situations in the County where students can walk a block or two to the bus stop of the neighboring elementary school and in many cases would be taking buses even to their assigned school so it would not increase the overall transportation burden in the County.</p>
<p>They way this is worded suggests ALL students at option schools, regardless of where they live in the County, will receive transportation. If this is true, this is a strength.</p>	<p>What happens when an option school in one zone is full but the equal option in the other zone has space? APS needs to have a plan to provide transportation if allowing students to attend the option school in another zone.</p>	<p>Transportation waivers should be provided to all current Claremont-zoned students at Key who were offered seats at Key, as these students balanced enrollment, in theory, by helping to alleviate overcrowding at Claremont</p>
<p>This just makes sense.</p>		

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limits transportation expenses

Why not have a quota for children going to another neighborhood school. For example, if there are 5+ kids leaving from a certain neighborhood to another neighborhood school, then bus transportation will be provided. This would be better than 5+ cars congesting our road ways to get to the same school from the same neighborhood.

Transportation waivers should also be available to students who transfer due to "need". The policy needs to make sure that transportation continues Team and Cluster students currently enrolled at their schools and for siblings of older students who will be concurrently enrolled at the school

None

Transportation must be offered to children grandfathering in to a school and their siblings.

Fair, at least on the surface. Simple.

Students grandfathered to other schools which used to be choice schools but are no longer option schools under the new rules will have to be dropped off by parents, adding to traffic headaches in front of the schools.

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All students offered spots at an options school should receive transportation.

On-going challenge for all middle school families (not necessarily specific to this policy, but important to consider): Many middle-schoolers who take the bus arrive at school long before school starts. Any transportation policy that helps alleviate this is welcome.

Unclear (could you give an example please): Why would a student need/want to transfer to another neighborhood school?

The proposal seems to be a reasonable approach. If you choose to send your kid out of the neighborhood school you should be able to ensure they can get to and from school. If you cannot, then the neighborhood school is available. This will also help avoid school overcrowding as more students may choose to stay in their neighborhood school which helps the School Administration plan better.