



Elementary School Planning Webinar: Community Proposals and Superintendent's Recommendation

January 24, 2020



Elementary School Planning for 2021

Welcome

We will be starting soon!

- Recording of webinar available afterwards
- Subtitles of online discussion available in multiple languages. For details, visit: www.apsva.us/engage/planning-for-2020-elementary-school-boundary-process/community-webinar-on-on-elementary-planning/
- Planning & Evaluation Staff Panel:
 - Lisa Stengle, Executive Director
 - Gladis Bourdouane, Planner
 - Sarah Johnson, Planner
 - Robert Ruiz, Principal Planner



www.apsva.us/engage

During this webinar, staff will:

- Present an overview of challenges and objectives
- Review community scenarios submitted to APS during this process as well as the Superintendent's recommendation
- Answer community members' questions received by Jan. 22 about the comparative staff analysis
 - Some questions received are covered in the presentation
 - As many questions as possible will be answered following the presentation
- Address clarifying questions received during the webinar about the information being presented

Overview: Long-Term Planning

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- Staff is responsible for long-term countywide planning that works for the community as a whole.
- Since Spring 2018, APS Planning has considered how to address these long-term challenges:
 - Use elementary school buildings efficiently, given the imbalance between where students live and the available neighborhood seats across the county
 - Meet capacity needs posed by rapid growth expected along the Rosslyn-Courthouse, Columbia Pike and Route 1 corridors
 - Establish school attendance zones that help manage the growing demand for APS bus service and resources
- APS is using a four-phase process to address these challenges



Overview: Phase 1 of Long-Term Planning

- This current phase is not a boundary process
- Phase 1 includes school moves to address long-term challenges and set the foundation for the Fall 2020 boundary process
- By repurposing some of our buildings, this foundation will allow APS to develop boundaries that:
 - Provide access to the closest neighborhood school to as many students across the county as possible
 - Maximize walkability
 - Manage increasing transportation costs
 - Minimize long bus rides for students
- Boundaries developed countywide in Fall 2020 process will be guided by the six School Board boundary policy considerations

Phase 1 – School Moves Proposals

November 2019 to February 2020

Challenges to be Addressed	APS Objectives	Community Engagement	Final Action
<p>Imbalance in elementary school neighborhood seats and where students live across the county</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term planning for school division as a whole • Build a foundation for fall boundary process that positions APS to develop boundaries that can align with the six SB policy considerations • Create neighborhood school capacity in Rosslyn-Ballston corridor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform community about challenges and objectives. • Share proposals and use input to inform final recommendation and identify issues to address in later phases. 	<p>Feb. 6: School Board vote on Superintendent’s Recommendation for moving McKinley, ATS and Key to new sites for 2021-22</p>



Phase 2 – Planning Unit (PU) Data Review

March to June 2020

Challenges to be Addressed	APS Objectives	Community Engagement	Final Action
Ensure accuracy of data at PU level ahead of Fall boundary process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with community to review and update PU data • Make any needed adjustments ahead of all boundary process 	Invite PTAs, civic associations and others to join APS in reviewing local PU data and providing input on anything that needs revising	PU data to be used in fall boundary process will be final by Aug. 2020

Phase 3 - Boundary Process

September to December 2020

Challenges to be Addressed	APS Objectives	Community Engagement	Final Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imbalance of capacity utilization across schools • New school opening • ASFS outside of its attendance zone • Planning for PreK classes accessible to eligible students and across schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use considerations in APS Boundaries Policy B-2.1 to develop boundaries for 2021-22 • Create attendance zone for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ new school at Reed site ○ ASFS that includes neighborhood • Bring capacity to manageable levels across all schools • Ensure classroom space for PreK in the schools near eligible students 	<p>Share proposals and use input to inform final recommendation and identify issues to address in later phases.</p>	<p>Dec. (TBD) : School Board vote on Superintendent's recommendation for 2021-22 Elementary Boundaries</p>



Phase 4 - Work with School Communities on Transitions

March 2020 to September 2021

Challenges to be Addressed	APS Objectives	Community Engagement	Final Action
Logistics of transitions, such as transportation, building refreshes, programmatic issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform families and staff of upcoming changes, timeline and engagement opportunities • Determine needs and resources for school moves • Work with school communities on any name change processes needed 	TBD - will be defined with school administrator and PTA, supported by central offices	Schools open ready for students in Sept. 2021



Community Proposals Submitted to APS

Boundaries Only, No School Moves



Community Proposals Submitted to APS

- Staff reviewed proposals, ideas and suggestions from the community, and will share a high-level summary of our analysis and answer questions we've received
- This webinar reviews four proposals received from the community:
 - Some are boundary-only proposals with no school moves
 - Some suggested repurposing alternate schools as option schools
- All scenarios show a commitment by community members to contribute to addressing APS challenges
- APS staff appreciates the time and effort of community members who have participated in this process, and can assure the community there will be engagement opportunities in each phase

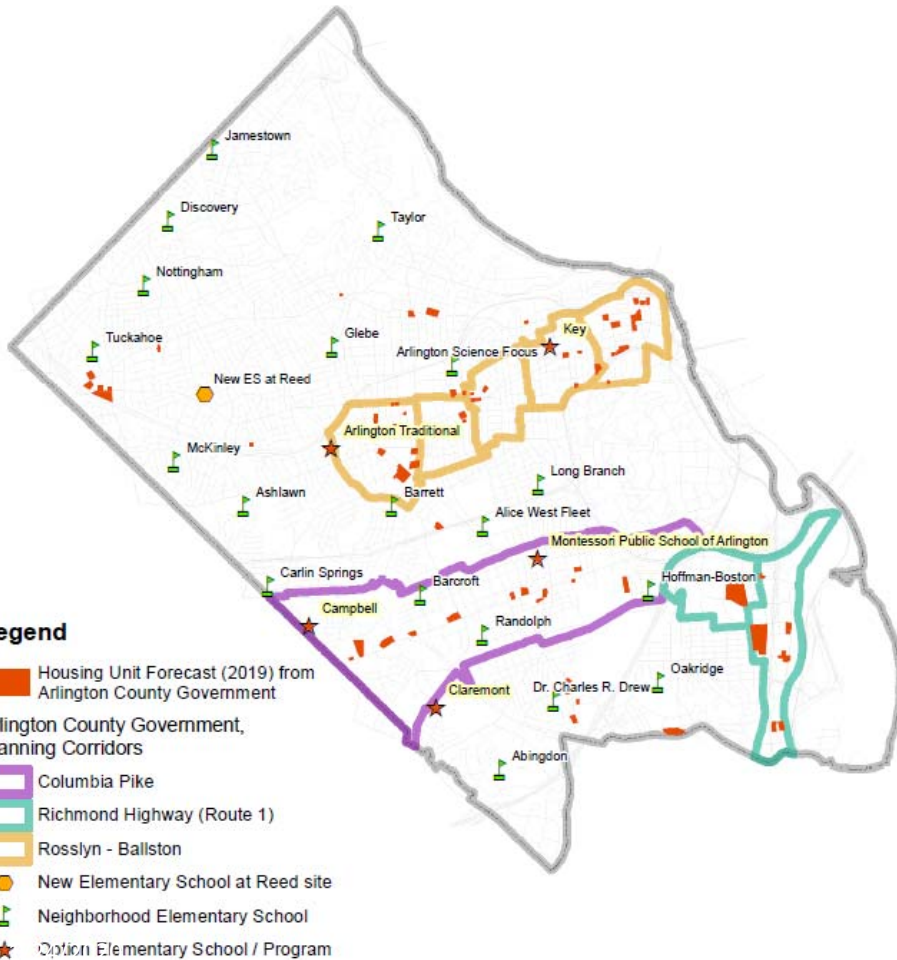
Community Proposals Submitted to APS

Boundaries Only – No School Moves

Common Themes:

- These maps feature boundaries that aim to:
 - Increase walkability and capacity utilization (Efficiency), which is only one of the six boundary policy considerations
 - Maintain McKinley as a neighborhood school
 - Keep all option schools at current sites
- These proposals maintain the neighborhood seat imbalance across the county
 - Do not meet urgent need for neighborhood seats in the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor
 - Do not address overcapacity in south Arlington schools
- These proposals would:
 - Result in significant changes in instructional needs at some schools
 - Not allow space needed for PreK classes

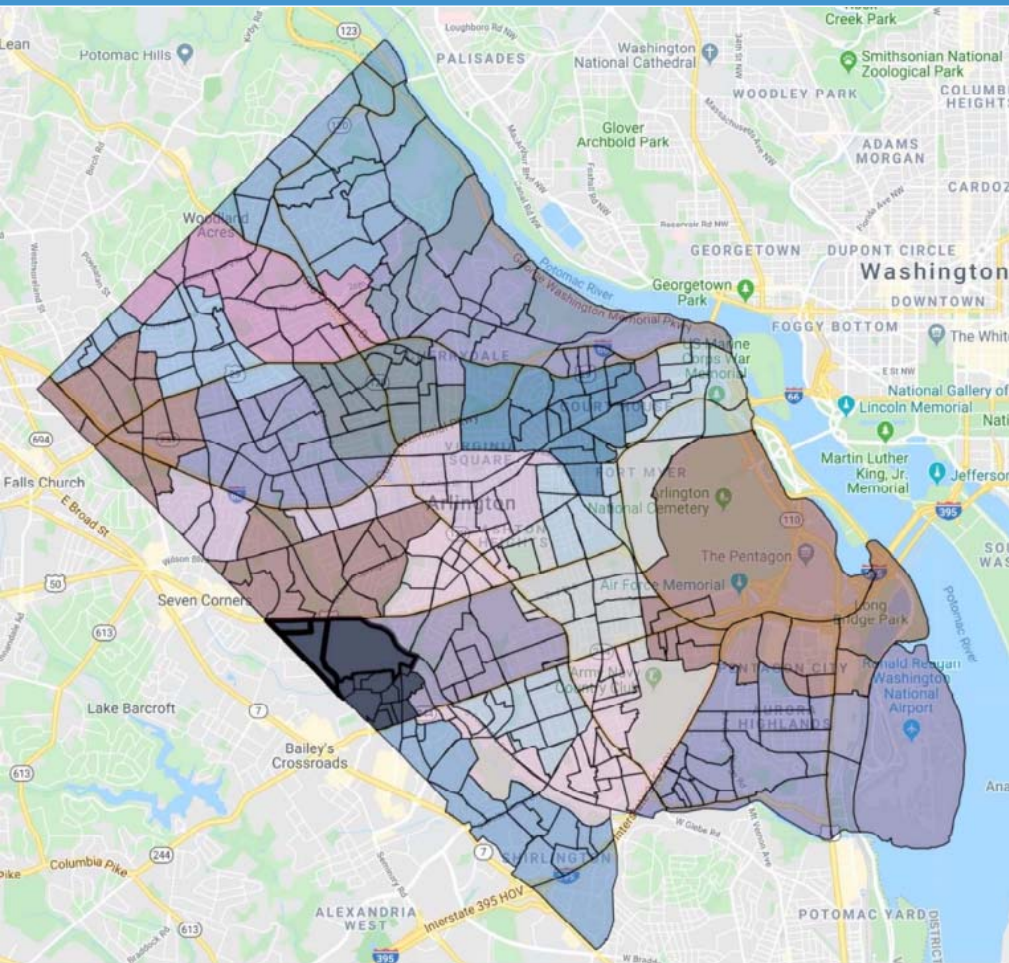
Long-Term Planning: Growth Across the County



- APS uses Arlington County data on housing development and birthrates
- Housing development is critical to long-term planning for APS
- Growth is concentrated along the Metro corridors:
 - Rosslyn/Ballston
 - Along Columbia Pike
 - Route 1
- New Units Expected from 2019 to 2029

Community Scenario, No School Moves

#2 – GB Proposal



In this scenario:

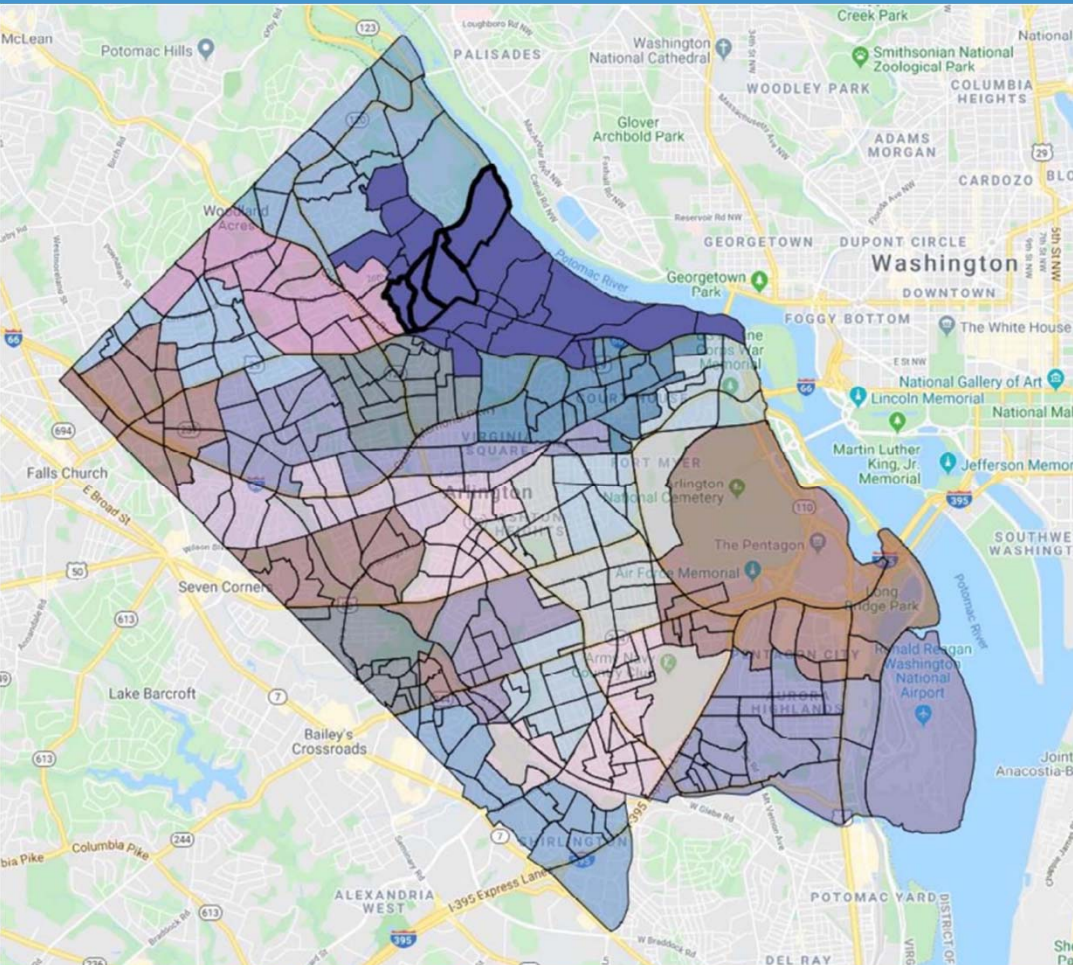
- Some students would be unable to attend a neighborhood school close to where they live—long and extended boundaries
- Results in long distances on a bus for some students. For example:
 - ❑ Some students who current live in VA Square area would pass Glebe, Ashlawn and Reed to attend McKinley
 - ❑ Students who live in Rosslyn are assigned to Long branch, creating two “islands”

<https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/GB-Boundaries-map.pdf>



Community Scenario, No School Moves

#2 – GB/DE Proposal



- Current Long Branch attendance zone is divided:
 - Long Branch students are reassigned to multiple schools
 - Students in Rosslyn are assigned to Long Branch
- Ashlawn and McKinley boundaries extend far east, with long bus rides for students who do not live in walk zones due to the imbalance of where seats are needed
- Creates boundaries for Ashlawn that require some students from Arlington Mill to move from Barcroft, past Carlin Springs, to reach Ashlawn
- Boundaries for the new school at Reed site extend east, reaching Ft. Myer

<https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/DE-Boundaries-Map.pdf>



Community Proposals Submitted to APS

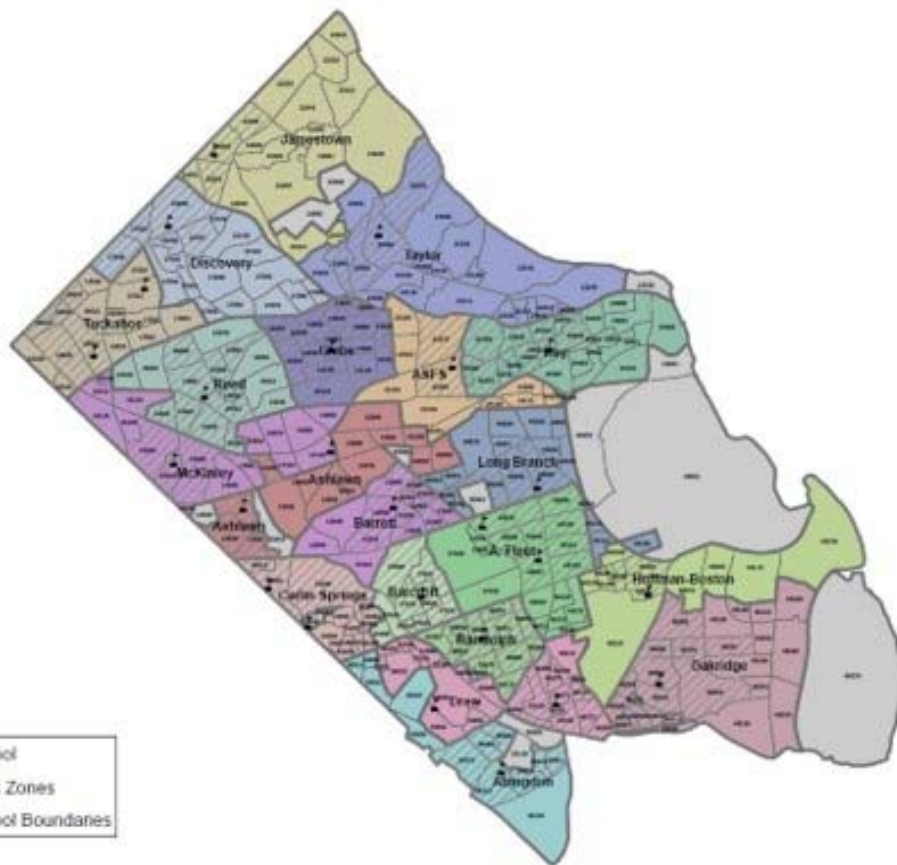
Alternatives Sites for Option Schools



Community Proposal

Alternatives Sites for Option Schools: Nottingham, #4—NM

#4—NM: Key to ATS; ATS to Nottingham



In This Proposal:

- The proposal to make Nottingham an option school would mean moving an option program even farther away from its current location and further into the northwest corner of the county.
- Extended boundaries would require additional transportation resources and longer times for students on buses
 - Ashlawn boundaries continue to extend east to VA Square
 - McKinley boundaries extend West and East
 - McKinley is surrounded by walk zones for Tuckahoe, Ashlawn and Reed
- Moves planning units previously moved in the 2018 boundary process:
 - Ft. Myer planning units
 - Planning units now in Drew to Fleet

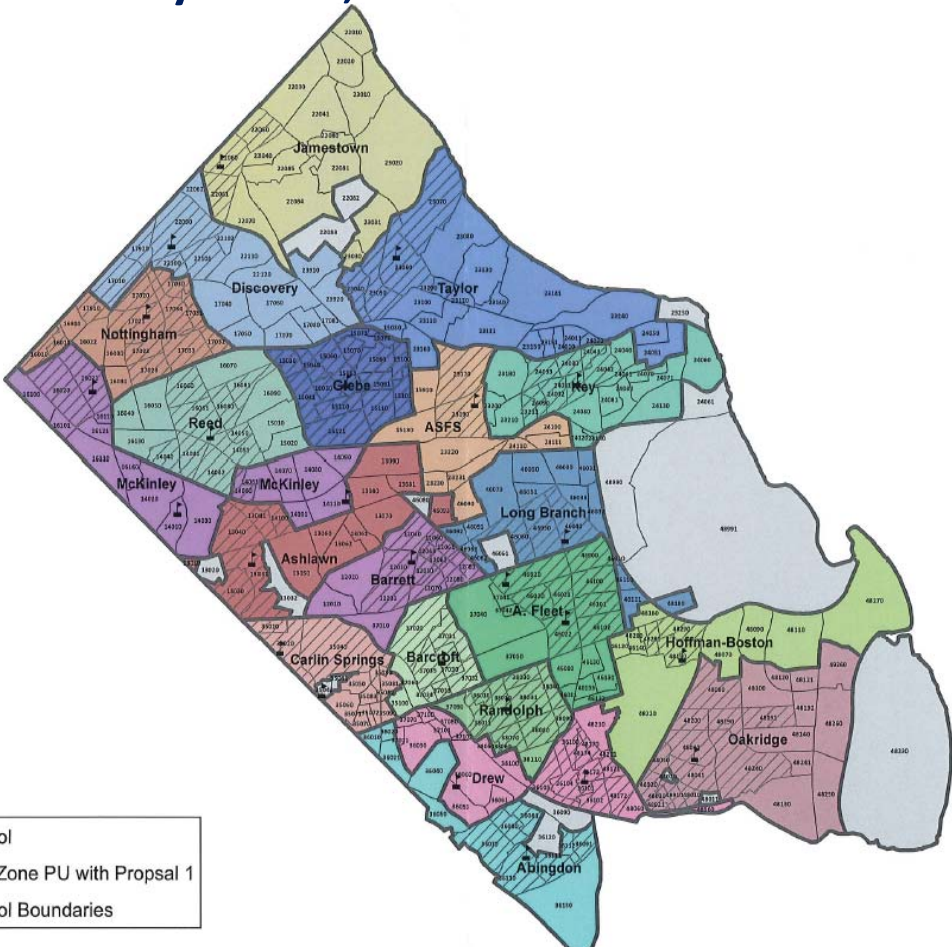
Community Proposal

Alternatives Sites for Option Schools: Tuckahoe, #4—NM

#4—NM: Key to ATS; ATS to Tuckahoe

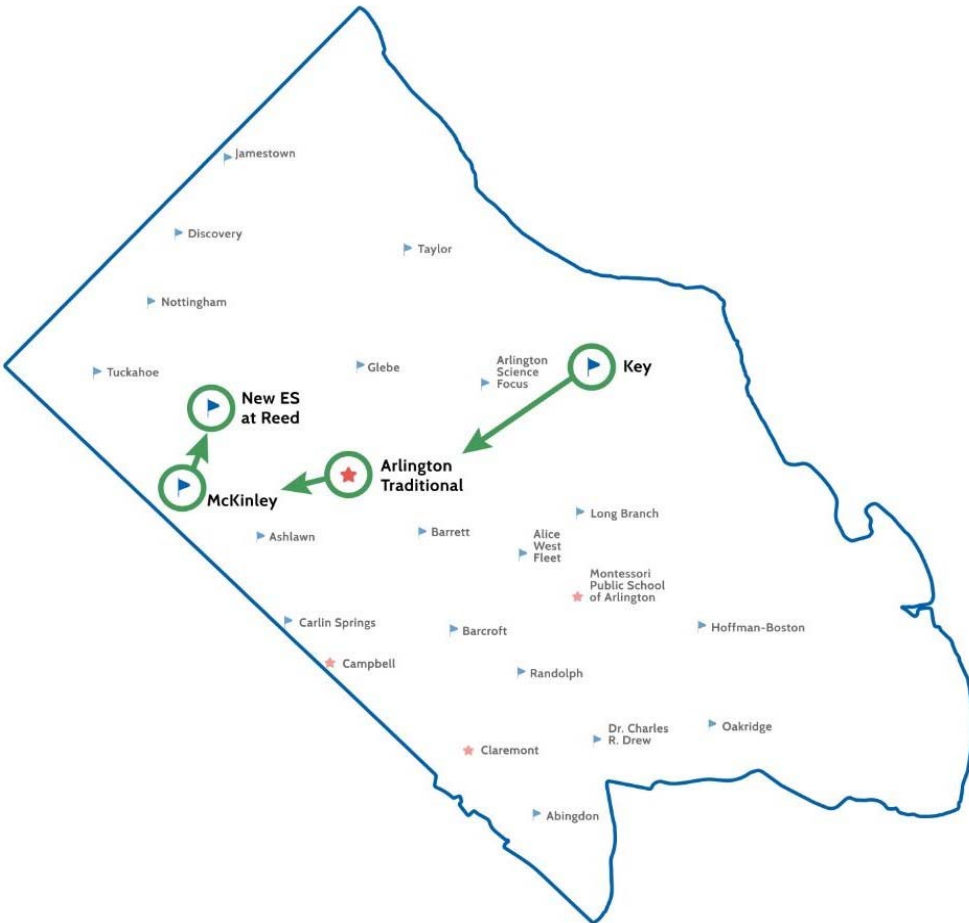
In This Proposal:

- Does not maximize walkability and manage the demand on transportation services and resources—results in longer bus rides for some students who are not assigned to neighborhood schools that are closest to where they live.
- Making Nottingham or Tuckahoe option schools would mean moving an option program even farther away from its current location and further into the northwest corner of the county.
- This proposal does not recognize the reasons McKinley was selected as a location for ATS:
 - More current McKinley students live in the Reed walk zone than in the McKinley walk zone; 43% of McKinley students can walk to a school closer to where they live rather than take a bus
 - The new school at the Reed site does not affect Nottingham and Tuckahoe students in the same way since fewer would be moved to the Reed site so there is not the same opportunity to keep the majority of them together as there is with McKinley.



Long-Term Planning

Superintendent's Recommendation-School Moves



- This recommendation does not include any boundary adjustments. It provides program and school site relocations to better prepare for the boundary process in the fall.
- Recommendation for School Moves (effective for 2021-22, concurrent with new elementary school boundaries and 725 new elementary school seats at Reed site):
 - Majority of McKinley students move with principal and staff to Reed site
 - All of Arlington Traditional community can move to McKinley site
 - All of Key Immersion community can move to ATS site
 - Key site becomes a new neighborhood school

The Superintendent's Recommendation for School Moves does the following:

- Build a foundation and minimize impact of Fall 2020 Elementary School Boundary Process on students
- Provide long-term planning to address the imbalance of elementary school seats and students across the county
- Create neighborhood seats in the Rosslyn-Courthouse area by Sept. 2021 without using capital resources to construct an addition or a new school building
- Manage demand for APS bus services and resources by developing boundaries that allow more students to walk to neighborhood schools and minimize student bus ride times to nearby neighborhood schools
- Bring countywide immersion to a central location, closer to where more Spanish-students live, to help encourage their participation and support the program's 50-50 dual-language model
- Expand access to the ATS countywide option by allowing more students to enroll at a larger site, seeking to maintain the program's diversity



Community Questions





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