

Dear APS Immersion School Community—

We shared information last week about the Dual Language Immersion visioning process in a [School Talk message](#) and at a joint Claremont/Key PTA meeting. We want to share highlights from the meeting with you, as well as links to the presentation and recording. The [APS Engage Immersion Visioning webpage](#) is a resource to stay up to date on the visioning process.

Dual Language Immersion Visioning process

As we mentioned, we are excited to begin a visioning process for the Dual Language Immersion program. The visioning process is being led by the Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) World Languages Office, and Dual Language Immersion principals with support from the Department of Planning and Evaluation. We will also be working together with a prominent leader in the national immersion community, Rosa Molina, Executive Director of the Association of Two-Way Dual Language Education (ATDLE). Information will be shared throughout the process and APS will form a task force this Spring with staff and community members. There will be opportunities for input before final recommendations are presented in early 2022.

Dual Language Immersion Elementary School Feeder Structure

The following changes to the feeder school structure for Key and Claremont will take effect for the 2021-22 school year:

- Students who live in Ashlawn's new attendance zone (effective 2021-22) will be assigned to Key Immersion
 - Grade K-4 students who currently attend Claremont and live in Ashlawn's new attendance zone (effective 2021-22) will have the option of continuing at Claremont for the 2021-22 school year. A decision of whether these students can continue at Claremont beyond 2021-22 will be made following completion of the visioning process and review of enrollment, projections and capacity.
 - Grade K-4 students who currently attend Claremont and live in a planning unit in Ashlawn's attendance zone that was reassigned to Arlington Science Focus (effective 2021-22) will have the option of continuing at Claremont for the 2021-22 school year. A decision of whether these students can continue at Claremont beyond 2021-22 will be made following completion of the visioning process and review of enrollment, projections and capacity.
- The new neighborhood school at the Key site is assigned to the Key immersion feeder zone
 - All of these students are currently assigned to Key Immersion as part of the current feeder structure (ASFS is their neighborhood school for 2020-21 and is a feeder for Key)

The visioning process will include a comprehensive review of the entire Dual Language Immersion program, including the feeder school structure. Doing minimal changes to the feeder structure now (Ashlawn assigned to Key is the only change) provides time for the visioning process to take place and helps minimize the potential number of changes that families and students would experience in a short period of time. If any adjustments to the feeder structure are needed to align with the vision developed during the visioning process, those changes can be made and will take effect no sooner than 2022-23.

Hub Stops

APS has transitioned to hub bus stops for all option schools effective 2020-21. There will be some changes to hub stops with the move of Key Immersion to the ATS site and feeder change in Fall 2021; one change is that the new neighborhood school at the Key site will be a hub stop to transport students to Key Immersion to its new location. Additional changes will be announced later this Spring.

Start Times for Key & Claremont in 2021-22

Daily start times for the immersion elementary schools will be aligned, making it easier for teachers to collaborate across schools and share professional learning opportunities. The Dept. of Facilities and Operations will be leading this work with principals. A decision about start times will be made in the Spring and communicated to staff and families

Sibling Preference

Siblings of students in the Dual Language Immersion program who are entering APS for the 2021-22 school year will continue to have sibling preference in the lottery at the immersion school that the older sibling attends, regardless of whether their older sibling attends the assigned feeder school or a school that is outside of their feeder zone. However, families can only apply to one immersion school for their incoming student—either the immersion school the older sibling is attending or the immersion school assigned for their attendance zone. They cannot apply to both schools.

Renaming Process for Key

In April, APS will begin a Key Immersion renaming process with the school community to confirm the current name or change the school's name as it moves to its new site in Fall 2021.

PTA Presentation & Recording

The presentations and recording of the Jan. 14 PTA meeting are available online at these links:

- [Dual Language Visioning Process Presentation – English](#)
- [Dual Language Visioning Process Presentation – Spanish](#)
- [Recording of the PTA Presentation](#)

We are excited about this Dual Language Immersion visioning process and will continue to update the community as our work proceeds. In addition, we will continue to keep the community informed of any operational updates. Please send any questions and comments you have to engage@apsva.us.

Sincerely,

Bridget Loft

Asst. Superintendent, Dept. of Teaching and Learning