

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 24, 2021
TO: Members of the School Board
VIA: Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
FROM: Leslie Peterson, Asst. Superintendent, Finance & Management Services

CIP QUESTION: Describe the rationale for the kitchen renovations in the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2022-24 CIP.

Response: With our school division's focus on the whole child, APS has sought to provide access to food for all students, but a staff analysis determined this is not possible with all our school kitchens. Staff from the Dept. of Facilities and Operations worked with the Office of Food and Nutrition Services to assess the status and function of all APS elementary school kitchens.

A decision was made several years ago to shift from preparing food at a central kitchen to, instead, preparing food at each school, which has greatly improved the quality of meals. However, many schools lack storage and prep space as a result of having been serving kitchens rather than cooking kitchens. Also, the decision to close the warehouse a number of years ago has meant that food must be delivered directly to schools and without appropriately-sized storage in the schools, deliveries must be made more frequently, adding to the cost.

In planning for the priority capital investment needs for APS infrastructure, staff identified the schools most in need of kitchen renovations. These capital improvements would create additional space for food storage and preparation and add common space for more effectively managing lunch lines, serving food, and seating more students during the typical three lunch cycles. With an expanded kitchen and choice, more students would opt to eat school-prepared lunches, reducing the concern that many students who bring food are not storing their lunches properly. APS requested funding in the FY 2021 CIP for three kitchen renovations at the ATS, Key and McKinley sites as part of the approved School Moves. The FY 2022-24 CIP includes kitchen renovations at seven additional elementary schools and one middle school. Entrance renovations at Campbell, Swanson, and Arlington Science Focus are included in the cost of the kitchen renovations shown in the CIP.

The attached chart provides the school start and end times, lunch times, and additional information such as Free and Reduced Price Lunch eligibility and issues in the kitchens that are addressed by the proposed renovations.

Kitchen Renovations

Superintendents Proposed FY 2022-24 CIP

School	School Start and End Time	Lunch Time (Typical non-pandemic school year)	Notes
ASFS	9 to 3:41	11:00-1:00	Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility for 2019 ¹ = 20% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk in refrigerator and freezer are in the outside garage/custodial storage area which causes unsafe working conditions. Outside temperature fluctuations cause the compressors to fail.
Ashlawn	9 to 3:41	10:50-1:40	Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility for 2019 = 15% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving line is too small. Floor plugs are a safety hazard and must be covered by a cone or trash bin daily. Cafeteria managers desk is in the kitchen, jeopardizing USDA confidentiality regulations.
Barrett	8:25 to 3:06	10:45-12:45	Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility for 2019 = 61% Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) School² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refrigerator and freezer capacity is insufficient; additional reach-ins are plugged into outlets and stored in school hallway. Nonexistent produce washing and prepping area, currently using dish sinks

¹ Lunch is free to all students in 2020-21; 2019 is the last time APS reported on eligibility for Free/Reduced Lunch.

² The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a special school meal funding option of the National School Lunch Act that enables schools to provide free meals to all students. Just like textbooks and desks, under CEP, school meals are available to all students at no cost to them.

CEP promotes equity by eliminating the out-of-pocket costs for families and by reducing stigma for school meals programs. To be eligible to operate CEP, a school or group of schools within a district must have an Identified Student Percentage (ISP) of 40% or higher. To calculate ISP, a school must count all of the students who are categorically eligible for free school meals and divide by total student enrollment. Students are considered categorically eligible if they are:

- Enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), Medicaid*, or if they live in a household where another student is enrolled in one of these programs (this is referred to as 'extended eligibility' or a 'sibling match' as outlined below).
- Homeless, migrant, runaway, in foster care, or enrolled in Head Start or Early Head Start. (Note that these categories do not confer eligibility to other students in the household.)

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/community-eligibility-provision>

School	School Start and End Time	Lunch Time (Typical non-pandemic school year)	Notes
Campbell	8 to 2:41	10:00-12:30	Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility for 2019 = 50% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No kitchen workspace available. Nonexistent produce washing and prepping area, currently using dish sinks. Extremely small serving line; cold serving line only accommodates 35 fruit /vegetable portions at a time while currently serving over 350 meals per day
Carlin Springs	8 to 2:41	10:45-12:40	Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility for 2019 = 81% Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently working with a portable cashier stand as a second serving area. Insufficient refrigerator size limits breakfast in the classroom capability. Additional storage has been set up in the hallway leading from the loading dock.
Drew	9 to 3:41	11:00-12:45	Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility for 2019 = 61% Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonexistent produce washing and prepping area, currently using dish sinks. Additional equipment including cold storage reach-in located in cafeteria serving line.
Randolph	8:25 to 3:06	10:40-12:20	Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility for 2019 = 73% Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient handwashing sinks (repeated health code violations) Nonexistent produce washing and prepping area, currently using dish sinks. Old dish room not operating; harborage for rodents Rusty pipes in serving line area.
Swanson	7:50 to 2:24	10:50-12:45	Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility for 2019 = 20% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major plumbing issues with 3 compartment sinks. Exposed rusty pipes in kitchen. Floors and walls are old and stained, very unappealing for a food service operation.