

# 2021 School Bond



On Election Day, November 2, Arlington voters will be asked whether to approve \$23.01 million in School Bonds to maintain and improve school infrastructure and address continued enrollment growth in Arlington County. Our school facilities are maintained and updated to meet the changing needs of students, maintain our high-quality of education, and protect our community's investment in our school infrastructure.

How will the funding from the 2021 School Bond help to address the needs of Arlington schools?

The 2021 bond funds allow APS to use limited resources to invest in infrastructure that meets the needs of students by improving school facilities. These investments will help APS plan for safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments where our students can learn and thrive. The School Board voted to adopt its FY 2022-24 CIP, which includes \$156.71 million in funding for school and infrastructure needs.

How do bonds work

Like a mortgage obtained by an individual or a family, bonds are long-term loans that spread the cost of major capital improvements over a number of years. Paying for long-term investments (such as school construction) with bonds spreads the cost among current and future taxpayers who will benefit from the ongoing investment in schools.

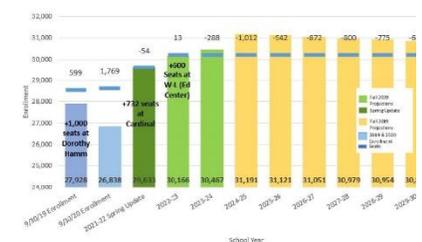
How will the 2021 School Bond funds be used?

The \$23.01 million will be used for facility improvements and safety and security projects:

- **Kitchen Renovations** at 4 schools (Campbell, Drew, Randolph and Swanson. Kitchen modernization to meet National School Lunch program requirements, including on-site food storage and prep and improved serving lines. ---- Funding: \$10,650,000
- **Entrance Renovations/Security Vestibules** at 6 schools (Campbell, Kenmore, Hoffman-Boston, Langston, Long Branch, and Swanson) to meet current safety and security standards. Ensures visitors check in at main office. -- Funding: \$970,000
- **The Heights Building Renovations** to include underground parking, improved access for Shriver students and lighted turf field for school and community use. -- Funding: \$11,390,000

How much is Arlington Public Schools (APS) student enrollment expected to grow?

APS enrollment projections are based on actual and forecasted births, future construction assumptions, and past cohort transition rates continuing into the future. APS typically produces 10-year enrollment projections that are used for planning purposes. Because of the impact the COVID-19 pandemic impact has had on school enrollment, APS experienced an unexpected drop in enrollment in Fall 2020 compared to Fall 2019 and to last year's projections for the 2020-21 school year.



What other projects are being planned for future bonds?

The Arlington School Board's Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-24 CIP includes additional projects that will be funded in future years. These additional projects include:

- HVAC Replacements & Upgrades - to further improve ventilation and filtration in schools. Upgrade filtration to highest level (MERV 13) and upgrade filtration in larger common spaces with portable HEPA filters.
- Continuing Kitchen and Entrance Renovations for Safety and Security for additional schools.
- Synthetic Turf Replacement - for Wakefield, Washington-Liberty, Williamsburg and Yorktown
- Arlington Career Center Campus Planning
  - Phase 1 - Relocation of Arlington Community High School to a new site
  - Phase 2 - Planning for next phases of the Arlington Career Center Campus



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What APS projects have been completed with earlier bonds?

Previous bonds approved by the Arlington community have been instrumental in supporting renovations and expansions of existing school buildings, as well as new construction, including the following most recent projects:

- New 725-seat Cardinal elementary school at the Reed Building (opened Fall 2021)
- Addition of 600 high school seats by repurposing the Education Center (opening Jan. 2022)
- Additions/renovation of Dorothy Hamm Middle School (opened Sept. 2019; addition opens Sept. 2020)
- Construction of The Heights Building to house the H-B Woodlawn and Shriver Programs (opened Sept. 2019)
- Construction of Alice W. Fleet Elementary School (opened Sept. 2019)
- Interior modifications to add capacity at all three APS comprehensive high schools (completed)

How has the APS capital improvement planning process been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?

This year, APS had to navigate economic and operational challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to these challenges, APS has aligned the approach to the FY 2022-24 CIP process with the County decision to adopt a 3-year CIP. This departure from the typical 10-year CIP allows APS to use limited resources effectively to plan for secondary capacity enrollment growth, maintain and improve existing facilities, and continue to plan for safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments where our students can learn and thrive. The Arlington School Board recognizes that the Arlington County Board faces competing needs for funding in a difficult fiscal environment, and we value the opportunity to continue working together to leverage resources to meet school and community needs as efficiently as possible.

How is APS working with Arlington County government to address growing enrollment and school capacity needs?

APS is committed to continuing to collaborate closely with Arlington County, which has a Triple-A (AAA) bond rating, to successfully address Arlington's need for school facilities that effectively support student learning. APS adheres to all debt-related policies enacted by Arlington County. APS works closely with advisory committees and takes a holistic approach to reviewing and addressing Arlington County's future needs to fund capital improvements.

How are school bonds relevant to Arlington residents who do not have children enrolled in APS?

While not all residents have children currently enrolled in our schools, those who don't have students today include families with APS graduates and families who plan to enroll future students in APS. Investments that maintain our strong school system benefit everyone in Arlington in two main ways:

1. **Community Use of APS Facilities** - APS facilities are used more than 58,000 hours annually by the entire Arlington community, including: community membership in the aquatics facilities; evening and weekend programs run by Arlington County Parks and Recreation; holiday and summer camps when schools are not in session; and a wide range of community fairs, arts events and other special meetings.
2. **Economic Impact** - Funding for school operations affects Arlington County's future by creating jobs, increasing property values and attracting major companies to Arlington. Studies have shown that every \$1 million spent on the APS CIP has been associated with creating 10.4 Arlington jobs. Improved APS student performance and high-quality ratings for APS has led to increased property values and tax revenues in Arlington. More recently, our strong school system has attracted large corporations to Arlington, such as Nestlé and Amazon. Both companies indicated the quality of the schools was a driving factor in the decision to locate headquarters offices in Arlington.

Where can I find more information?

Information on the 2021 school bond and all of the projects planned in the FY 2022-24 APS Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is available online at [www.apsva.us/CIP](http://www.apsva.us/CIP).

How can I support the 2021 School Bond?

The School Bond will be on the November 2, 2021 election ballot. There are three ways to vote:

- Vote early: Select from five locations in Arlington starting September 17, 2021
- By mail: Request a ballot by October 21, 2021
- In person: At your polling place—open 6 a.m.-7 p.m. on Nov. 2, 2021

To find locations or request a mail-in ballot, visit: [vote.arlingtonva.us](http://vote.arlingtonva.us)