

2022 School Bond



On Election Day, November 8, Arlington voters will be asked whether to approve \$165.01 million in School Bonds to improve and upgrade existing school infrastructure. In addition, the school bond will fund a new facility to serve full-time Arlington Career Center students, students from across all APS high schools, and to prepare for future enrollment growth. The school bond ensures APS school facilities are maintained and updated to meet the changing needs of students, support high-quality education, and invests in APS facilities because they serve a dual role as community assets utilized for various community purposes.

How will the funding from the 2022 School Bond help to address the needs of schools in Arlington?

The 2022 school bond funds will finance annual and consistent investment to improve and upgrade the school division's existing infrastructure and fund the plan to build the long-awaited new facility at the Arlington Career Center. The school bond also supports the plans APS has for continuing improvements and upgrades of current APS facilities as an on-going priority. Projects that enhance the health and safety of students comprise most of the outlined work. Upgraded kitchens will allow students to eat high-quality meals that include more fresh fruits and vegetables that are prepared on site. The entrance and security vestibule updates will comply with current safety and security standards while ensuring all visitors check in at the main office.

How do school 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 2022 School Bond funds be used?

The \$165.01 million will be used for the following projects:

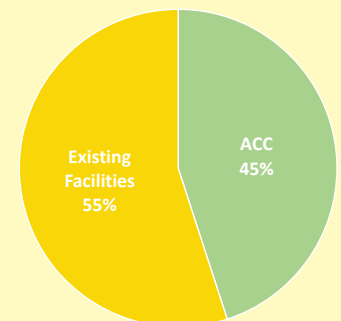
- Major Infrastructure Projects that include HVAC, Electrical, Lighting, Roofing, and Windows - Funding: \$16.8 Million
- Entrance/Security Vestibule Updates and Kitchen Renovations to meet current safety and security standards and to provide healthy meals prepared onsite for students. - Funding: \$16.36 Million (\$4.12 million was already included in the 2021 school bond referendum)
- Arlington Career Center Project to construct a modern facility to support student learning for full-time Arlington Career Center (ACC) students and students from all APS high schools who are enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses at ACC – Funding: \$135.97 Million

How does the school bond correlate with the CIP?

The 2022 school bond referendum is for \$165.01 million and will fund a variety of APS capital projects in the FY 2023-32 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), including the new Arlington Career Center. While the 2022 school bond will fund some of the projects in the FY 2023-32 CIP, the FY 2023-32 CIP primarily focuses on projects at existing APS facilities across a 10-year period and is funded by various funding sources, including future school bonds.

The FY 2023-32 CIP allocates funds as follows:

- 55% for improvements to existing facilities, not including any future funding for the long-range renovation plan
- 45% for the ACC project (new building, field, parking garage)





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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:

- Addition of 600 high school seats at the Washington-Liberty Annex, which was the former APS Education Center (opened Aug. 2022)
- Construction of Cardinal Elementary School (opened Aug. 2021)
- Transportation Staff Facility renovation (opened March 2021)
- Additions to and renovation of Dorothy Hamm Middle School (renovation opened Sept. 2019; addition opened Sept. 2020)
- Construction of The Heights to house the H-B Woodlawn and Shriver Programs (opened Sept. 2019)
- Construction of Alice W. Fleet Elementary School (opened Sept. 2019)
- Addition and renovation for Abingdon Elementary (completed Jan. 2018)
- Renovations and expansions of McKinley Elementary (completed Fall 2016)
- Construction of Discovery Elementary School (opened Fall 2015)

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

The FY 2023-32 CIP, which is the first CIP in a decade that is not primarily reacting to increased student enrollment, focuses on APS student success and well-being. In an effort to provide students with high-quality instructional environments that support their learning, the FY 2023-32 CIP specifically prioritizes annual and consistent investment to improve and upgrade the school division's existing infrastructure and a plan to build the long-awaited new facility at the Arlington Career Center. The FY 2023-32 CIP outlines how APS plans continuing improvements and upgrades of current APS facilities as an on-going priority. Projects that enhance the health and safety of students comprise most of the outlined work.

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 and capital improvements affects Arlington County's future, regardless of whether a resident currently has children enrolled in APS. A 2013 study by economist Dr. Michael Walden found that every \$1 million spent on the APS capital improvement plans was associated with creating 10.4 Arlington jobs. Further, improved APS student performance led to increased property values and tax revenues. More recently, large corporations such as Nestlé and Amazon indicated that the quality of the school system was a major factor in the decision to locate offices in Arlington.

Where can I find more information?

Information on the 2022 school bond and all of the projects planned in the FY 2023-32 APS Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is available online at www.apsva.us/CIP.

How can I support the 2022 School Bond?

The School Bond will be on the November 8, 2022 election ballot. There are three ways to vote:

- Vote early: Select from five locations in Arlington starting September 23, 2022
- By mail: Request a ballot by October 28, 2022
- In person: At your polling place—open 6 a.m.-7 p.m. on Nov. 8, 2022

To find locations or request a mail-in ballot, visit: vote.arlingtonva.us