

SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT

Every student is guaranteed admission to the elementary and secondary neighborhood schools serving the area in which he or she resides. The School Board is responsible for establishing attendance areas for all schools. Although all Arlington public schools use the same curriculum and are held to the same state and national standards, many schools have developed instructional emphases, unique curriculum delivery methods, or additional programs designed to bolster student achievement. The School Board provides a number of additional educational options in which students may enroll, recognizing that individual students may thrive in a variety of educational settings. Some schools enroll students throughout the county; others give preference to identified geographic areas within the county.

The Arlington Public Schools carries out a sustained, vigorous, and culturally appropriate program to communicate clearly the attributes of all its schools and programs to assist families and students in making informed decisions. Application periods and deadlines are widely published each year. Application and transfer forms are available at all APS schools and programs.

Residence Changes Within Arlington

During the school year, students changing their residence within Arlington County may:

- Complete the year in the school in which they are enrolled. (Parent/guardian will be responsible for transportation.)
- Complete the year at the school serving their new residence.

The following year these students will attend the school serving their new residence or apply for a transfer to remain in their previous school.

Students moving within Arlington County and students moving into Arlington County may enroll in advance at the new school by proving that a residence change will occur within sixty (60) calendar days that will qualify them to attend the new school. Such proof may include:

- A rental contract signed by both lessor and lessee; or
- A contract to purchase signed by both seller and buyer; or
- A mortgage agreement showing that the student is eligible to attend the new school.

High school students changing their residence from one high school attendance area to another within Arlington and who have completed two or more years of their high school education in a particular high school at the time of the change of residence may be permitted to complete their education in that high school. In these instances, the parents/guardians of the students will be responsible for transportation.

Residence Changes Outside of Arlington

During the school year, students changing their residence to outside of Arlington County may remain at their current school on the following terms and conditions.

- Students in grades kindergarten through 11 moving out of Arlington County before the beginning of the fourth quarter may be allowed to stay for the remainder of the year on a nonresident tuition basis.
- Students in grades kindergarten through 11 moving out of Arlington County after the beginning of the fourth quarter may be allowed to remain in the APS until the end of the school year without paying tuition.
- Seniors who move out of Arlington County before the beginning of the third quarter may be allowed to complete their senior year as a nonresident tuition paying student.
- Seniors who move out of Arlington County after the beginning of the third quarter may be allowed to complete their senior year tuition free. Their permission to remain in the Arlington Public Schools without paying tuition shall be conditioned on demonstration of appropriate school conduct and will terminate at the end of the school year. Should the student fail to meet graduation requirements, the student may be allowed to attend summer school as a nonresident tuition paying student.

The determination as to whether a student is allowed to stay under the provisions above will be made by the Superintendent or designee, after consultation with the building principal. A parent/guardian assumes responsibility for transportation during the time the family is residing outside of Arlington County or outside the new attendance area.

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL TRANSFERS

APS provides for student transfers among neighborhood schools to meet the educational, familial, and developmental needs of individual students.

To preserve the neighborhood character of neighborhood schools, to prevent crowding, and to provide schools with a cushion for fluctuations in enrollment within their school boundaries:

- The number of students attending a neighborhood elementary school from outside its attendance boundary will not exceed a total of five percent of the receiving school's total enrollment based on the prior year's September 30 Student Membership Report, with the exception of intra-team transfers between Jamestown, Key/Science Focus, and Taylor and the Fort Myer custodial transfers at Long Branch.
- Any neighborhood elementary school where projected enrollment within the next three years exceeds 95% of its facility's capacity is not eligible to accept non-sibling transfers
- Any neighborhood elementary school that is not projected to reach 95% of its capacity within the next three years may exceed the five percent transfer limit, but only from schools at or projected to reach 95% of capacity within the next three years.

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
25-2.2 Enrollment and Transfers for Schools and Programs

- The number of students attending a middle or high school from outside its attendance boundary will not exceed a total of five percent of the receiving school's total enrollment based on the prior year's September 30 Student Membership Report, with the exception of International Baccalaureate transfers to Washington-Lee, Immersion transfers to Gunston and Wakefield, and transfers to the Wakefield AP Network. Any middle or high school where projected enrollment within the next three years exceeds the facility's capacity will not be eligible to receive transfers.
- Subject to the limitation set forth on page 13 of this policy, all qualified International Baccalaureate transfers to Washington-Lee, Immersion transfers to Gunston and Wakefield, and transfers to the Wakefield AP Network who reside outside of these schools' attendance areas will be admitted.
- If all students applying for International Baccalaureate transfers at Washington-Lee, Immersion transfers to Gunston or Wakefield, or transfers to the Wakefield AP Network cannot be accommodated at those schools, the Superintendent or designee will make immediate and long-term recommendations, as appropriate, to the Board on providing additional program capacity and better matching enrollment to capacity.

Schools that are not projected to reach capacity may exceed the five-percent limit by accepting additional transfers from those schools at or projected to reach capacity during the next three years.

The Superintendent or designee will issue an updated list of the schools affected by this policy and the updated projections for all schools annually.

All transfers described in this policy are subject to the constraints that may develop as a result of any transfers resulting from implementation of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Any parent or guardian of a student may receive a transfer to a neighborhood school other than the student's neighborhood school provided that:

- The transfer does not cause the receiving school to exceed its capacity limitations as defined above;
- The enrollment limitation described above is not exceeded; and/or
- The parents/guardians assume the responsibility for transportation, as necessary.

Once a transfer has been granted, enrollment will be continuous through the grade levels of that school unless the school is involved in redistricting. In such cases the Board may make a different determination regarding the status of transfer students. However, a transfer may be terminated if, in the opinion of the principal or the parents/guardians involved, it is creating a situation that is detrimental to the student and/or other students.

Twins, although admitted as two, will be treated as one in all transfers. At the elementary level, siblings of older students already receiving a transfer will receive preference in applying for transfers.

Transfers must take place before the beginning of a given school year. The Superintendent or designee must approve exceptions. High school students granted such an exception may not be eligible to participate in activities governed by the Virginia High School League for the remainder of that school year.

Employee Professional Courtesy Transfer for Students

Employees of APS who are residents of Arlington County and are currently employed at a .5 status, its equivalent, or more may request transfers for their children from their home school to the neighborhood school in which they work or which is closest to their work location unless those schools or programs have specific enrollment procedures outlined elsewhere in this policy, in which case the employee must follow those procedures. The request will be made, in writing, to the principal of the receiving school. After approval by both principals, the student will be transferred. The parent/guardian assumes responsibility for transportation. Courtesy transfers will be approved after regular transfers and other selection lotteries are completed. An Employee Professional Courtesy transfer may not cause an elementary school's enrollment to exceed 95% of its capacity or a middle or high receiving school to exceed, or continue to exceed, its stated building capacity.

Transfer Application Process

To help families make informed decisions, the parents/guardians of the applicant are encouraged to visit, during school hours, both their neighborhood school and the school to which they are applying. These visits are to occur during scheduled informational meetings or during previously arranged appointments with principals. The principals may make exceptions in the case of individual circumstances (for example, transportation, economic issues, or illness).

The principal of the requested school shall act on all transfer requests on the first school day after the third Friday in January at the secondary school level and after April 15 at the elementary school level.

Parents/guardians request a transfer by submitting a completed form "Pupil Transfer Application" to the principal of the requested school. At the elementary school level, transfer applications must be submitted after February 1 and before April 15 for the following school year. At the secondary school level, transfer applications must be submitted after the first Monday in November and before the third Friday in January for the following school year.

If the number of transfer requests exceeds the number of available transfer positions, a random selection process will determine the order for admitting transfer students. Each transfer request submitted after the stated deadlines will be placed on a waiting list if the requested school does not have transfer vacancies. At the elementary level, preference will be given to siblings of older students who will be concurrently enrolled in the school and those students who attend the school but have moved to another neighborhood attendance area.

PRESCHOOL

APS offers VPI classes and Primary (Preschool) Montessori Programs at selected schools throughout the county. Application forms for these classes and programs are available at the schools referenced below.

Preschool applications will be accepted beginning February 1 and continuing through April 15 prior to the beginning of the school year for which the application is being made.

If there are more applications than spaces available in an APS Preschool class, a random double-blind lottery will be held. As a result of this lottery, a waiting list will be created. As space becomes available, admission will be offered to students on the waiting list in the order established by the lottery. Additional applications that are received after the application period will be added, in the order received, at the end of the waiting list for each category identified in the school and program descriptions below. Twins, although admitted as two, will be treated as one in the selection process.

VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE (VPI)

At selected elementary schools, APS provides Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) classes, whose enrollment is limited to the attendance area of the school where the class is located, for children who are four-years-old on or before September 30, and whose parents' income is at or less than 80% of the median income for a family of four in Arlington County.

Children who come from families of lesser financial means will be given priority for admission.

In addition to VPI classes offered at neighborhood schools, VPI classes are offered to students at ATS, with countywide admissions; at Barrett, with preference for students in the Barrett attendance area, followed by the Barrett cluster; and at Drew, with preference for students in the Drew attendance area, followed by countywide admissions.

PRIMARY (PRESCHOOL) MONTESSORI PROGRAMS

APS provides Montessori programs for three, four, and five-year-old students in selected locations and as resources allow. Two-thirds of the positions in each Montessori class are reserved for children whose parents' income is at or less than 80% of the median income for a family of four in Arlington County.

Tuition shall be charged on a sliding scale for all enrolled students who do not meet the age-requirement for kindergarten. Parents of four-year-old children whose income is at or less than 80% of the median income for a family of four in Arlington County pay no fee.

Preference for openings that may occur for five-year-olds is given to students with previous Montessori experience.

Students who attend the Primary (Preschool) Montessori Programs at Campbell, Claremont, Drew, and Key have the option of attending the school at which that preschool program is located through fifth grade without having to reapply. The following sections describe the admissions process for each of the current APS Primary (Preschool) Montessori Programs.

Campbell Primary (Preschool) Montessori Program

Admission to Campbell Elementary School is available to students residing in the attendance areas for the following feeder schools: Abingdon, Barcroft, Carlin Springs, Henry, Hoffman-Boston, Oakridge, and Randolph and will be offered in the following order:

- Siblings of older students who will be concurrently enrolled in any program located at Campbell
- Students from feeder schools listed above whose projected enrollment within the next three years reaches 95% of capacity or above
- Students from the other feeder schools listed above

Claremont and Key Primary (Preschool) Montessori Program

Admission to the Claremont and Key Primary (Preschool) Montessori Programs for children 3-5 years old will be offered in the following order:

- Siblings of older students who will be concurrently enrolled in any program located at Claremont for Claremont's program and Key for Key's program
- Students from Key's Team (Jamestown, Taylor, Key, and Science Focus) for Key and Claremont's Cluster (Abingdon, Hoffman-Boston, and Oakridge) for Claremont

Drew Primary (Preschool) Montessori Program

Admission to the Drew Primary (Preschool) Montessori Program for children 3-5 years old will be offered in the following order:

- Siblings of older students who will be concurrently enrolled in any program located at Drew Model School
- Other students who reside in Arlington County

Neighborhood Primary (Preschool) Montessori Programs

There are Neighborhood Primary (Preschool) Programs which serve a cluster of feeder schools set by the School Board. Admission to these Primary (Preschool) Montessori Programs will be offered in the following order:

- Siblings of older students who will be concurrently enrolled in the Montessori Program at the neighborhood school in which the program is located. If, prior to the first day of school, one of the siblings does not continue in the Montessori Program the sibling admitted under sibling

preference will move to the bottom of the appropriate wait list and be considered as any other student residing within the attendance area.

- Other students residing within the attendance areas of the feeder schools designated for that Primary (Preschool) Montessori Program
- If spaces remain, students from outside the attendance areas of the feeder schools

Students completing Neighborhood Primary (Preschool) Montessori Programs will receive preference for a transfer over other transfer applicants, except siblings, to remain in the school they attended for that program.

APS AREA AND COUNTYWIDE SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

The current list of all Arlington Public Schools (APS) schools and programs is available at all schools and programs, the Office of School and Community Relations, and on the APS web site: www.arlington.k12.va.us.

Transportation is provided to eligible students for these area and countywide elementary and secondary schools and programs.

Application Process

To help families make informed decisions, the parents/guardians of an applicant to a school or program other than the neighborhood school ~~will~~ are encouraged to visit, during school hours, both the neighborhood schools and any school or program prior to submitting an application. These visits are to occur during scheduled informational meetings or during previously arranged appointments with principals. The principals may make exceptions in the case of individual circumstances (for example, transportation, economic issues, or illness).

For elementary schools and programs, applications will be accepted beginning February 1 and continuing through April 15 prior to the beginning of the school year for which the application is being made.

For secondary schools and programs, applications will be accepted beginning the first Monday in November and continuing through the third Friday in January prior to the beginning of the school year for which the application is being made.

Waiting List

If there are more entry level applications than spaces available, a random double-blind lottery will be held. As a result of this lottery, a waiting list will be created. As space becomes available, admission will be offered to students on the waiting list in the order established by the lottery. Additional applications that are received after the application period will be added, in the order received, at the end of the waiting list for each category identified in the school and program descriptions below. Twins, although admitted as two, will be treated as one in the selection process.

When a student on the waiting list is eligible to fill a vacancy in an existing class, the school will contact the family and invite them to enroll their child. At that time, the family has the following options:

1. Accept the position and transfer the child to the requested system-wide school.
2. Reject the position and ask to retain the position on the waiting list for consideration the next year if the admission invitation is offered after the school year has begun. In such cases, the students retain their positions on the list but are passed over for the remainder of the school year.
3. Reject the position and be moved to the end of the waiting list if the admission invitation is offered for the forthcoming school years.

Change in Residence for Area Elementary Schools

During the school year, students who move within Arlington but out of the designated attendance area for an area school or program may:

- Complete the year in the school in which they are enrolled. (Parent/guardian will be responsible for transportation.)
- Complete the year at the school serving their new residence.

The following year these students will attend the school serving their new residence or apply for admission to remain in their previous school. They will receive preference over other applicants, except siblings, for admission.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Arlington Traditional School (ATS)

Arlington Traditional School is a countywide elementary school (for information on admission to the VPI class see above). Students will be chosen through a random double-blind lottery. The following students are guaranteed admission to ATS at the kindergarten entry level:

- Students who have completed the VPI class at ATS
- Siblings of older students who will be concurrently attending ATS

Other students who live in Arlington may then be admitted on a space-available basis.

Barrett Elementary School

All students who live in the Barrett Elementary School attendance area and all students who attend Pre-K at Barrett who live in the Ashlawn, McKinley, Nottingham or Tuckahoe attendance areas are guaranteed admission to Barrett. Admission and transportation is available to students residing

in the attendance areas for the following feeder schools: Ashlawn, Glebe, Long Branch, McKinley, Nottingham, and Tuckahoe. Admission to Barrett Elementary School will be offered in the following order:

- Siblings of older students who will be concurrently attending Barrett;
- Students from feeder schools projected to be above 95% capacity within the next three years;
- Students from the feeder schools, regardless of enrollment projections; and
- Other students residing in Arlington (transportation not provided).

The APS Waiting List procedures described above are followed except that after September 30 any spaces at any grade, K-5, which become available will first be offered to applicants from feeder schools identified as having enrollments at 95% of capacity or above to balance enrollment. Additional applications that occur after the application period will be added, in the order received, at the end of the waiting lists for each category. Twins, although admitted as two, will be treated as one in the selection process.

Campbell Elementary School

Admission to Campbell Elementary School is available to students residing in the attendance areas for the following feeder schools: Abingdon, Barcroft, Carlin Springs, Henry, Hoffman-Boston, Oakridge, and Randolph. Students in the preschool programs located at Campbell have the option to remain at Campbell without having to enter the kindergarten level lottery. Admission to Campbell Elementary School will be offered to others in the following order:

- Siblings of older students who will be concurrently attending Campbell;
- Students from feeder schools whose projected enrollment within the next three years reaches 95% of capacity or above;
- Students from other feeder schools, regardless of enrollment projections; and
- Other students residing in Arlington (transportation not provided).

The APS Waiting List procedures described above are followed except that after September 30 any spaces at any grade, K-5, which become available will first be offered to applicants from feeder schools identified as having enrollments at 95% of capacity or to balance enrollment. Additional applications that occur after the application period will be added, in the order received, at the end of the waiting lists for each category. Twins, although admitted as two, will be treated as one in the selection process.

Claremont and Key Immersion Elementary Schools

Claremont and Key Elementary Immersion Schools strive to maintain a balance of approximately 50 percent native Spanish-speaking (or Spanish-dominant) and 50 percent native English-speaking (or English-dominant) students and base admission in the upper grades on staff analysis of language proficiency and balance as well as space availability. The application of such a policy does not exclude students whose first or dominant language may be other than English or Spanish (e.g., Chinese, Urdu, and Arabic). Such students are included in the English speaking category.

Students in the preschool programs located at Claremont or Key have the option to remain at Claremont or Key without having to enter the kindergarten level lottery. Students residing in Neighborhood (Key/Science Focus) for Key or the Cluster (Abingdon/Hoffman-Boston /Oakridge) for Claremont are guaranteed admission to that school. Admission to Claremont and Key Elementary Immersion Schools will be offered to others in the following order:

- Siblings of older students who will be concurrently attending Claremont or Key
- In the case of Key, students from its team (Jamestown and Taylor) schools
- Students who live within Claremont and Key's identified boundaries
- Students from one school's waiting list if space is available in the other school

Drew Model School

All students who live in the Nauck community (those children residing in the Nauck Civic Association neighborhood who also live within the Hoffman-Boston attendance area) are guaranteed admission to Drew Model School or, if they choose, to Hoffman-Boston Elementary School.

Graded Program Kindergarten – Grade 5

The following students are guaranteed admission to the Graded Program at Drew:

- All students who live in the Nauck community
- Students already enrolled in the Drew Montessori programs, and
- Siblings of older students who will be concurrently attending Drew.

Other students who live in Arlington may then be admitted on a space-available basis.

Nauck students enrolled in the elementary Montessori program may enter the Graded Program at any grade. Students who reside outside the Nauck community may enter the Graded Program at any grade where space is available.

Elementary Montessori Grades 1 – 5

Students who enter the Montessori Program at Drew at the primary level, as well as students who reside in the Nauck community with previous Montessori experience at places other than Drew, are guaranteed admission to the Elementary Montessori Program through fifth grade without having to apply at the first grade entry level. All entry-level applicants (Grade 1) with previous Montessori experience who will have older siblings concurrently attending Drew are guaranteed admission to the Elementary Montessori Program. Other entry-level applicants will be admitted to the Montessori program in the following order:

- Students enrolled in another APS preschool Montessori program
- Students who live in Arlington County who have had the equivalent of at least one-half of a regular APS school year in a certified Montessori program
- Other students in the Graded Program Kindergarten at Drew
- Other students who reside in the Nauck community
- Other students who live in Arlington County

Students above Grade 1 without Montessori experience will be offered admission on a case-by-case basis based on the likelihood that the student can adjust to a Montessori program in the absence of prior Montessori experience.

Jamestown, Key, Science Focus, and Taylor Team

Students residing in each school's attendance area (the Arlington Science Focus School attendance area is considered to be the same as the Key Elementary School neighborhood attendance area) are guaranteed admission to that school. Admission to the Team schools, other than Key, will be offered in the following order (Admission to Key Immersion School is outlined separately above):

- Siblings of older team students who will be concurrently attending the school
- Siblings of older out-of-team students who will be concurrently attending the school
- Students from other team schools
- Out-of-team students (transportation not provided)

During the school year, Team students who move within Arlington but out of the designated Team attendance area may:

- Complete the year in the school in which they are enrolled. (Parent/guardian will be responsible for transportation.)
- Complete the year at the school serving their new residence.

The following year these students will attend the school serving their new residence or apply for admission to remain in their previous school.

Randolph Elementary School

In addition to all students who live in the Randolph attendance area, those students residing in the Barcroft attendance area who do not choose the year round program there are guaranteed admission to Randolph.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program

Entry at Grade 6

An allotment of slots for each neighborhood school, based on the proportion of fifth graders living in each neighborhood school attendance zone, will be determined each year. Students attending non-neighborhood APS schools, private schools, or home-schoolers will be included in their neighborhood school attendance zone lottery. If all slots are not filled through this process, a follow-up double-blind lottery will take place for all students who had completed applications but were not admitted through the school-by-school lottery. This wait list will remain in place through eighth grade.

Entry at Grade 9

A random double-blind lottery will take place to determine admission for available slots. This lottery will be system-wide for interested students who apply for admission for the ninth grade year. Twins, although admitted as two, will be treated as one in the selection process.

Arlington Tech

An allotment of slots for each middle school attendance area will be determined each year. If more students apply than the allotment of slots available for a specific attendance area or areas, a random double blind lottery will take place for all students in that area(s) who had completed an application in accordance with the required timeline. (This will be based on FY17 budget.)

Thomas Jefferson Middle School

In addition to students in its regular attendance area, students throughout the county may apply for admission to International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, as long as the building has sufficient capacity to accommodate the applicants.

Kenmore Middle School

In addition to students in its regular attendance area, students throughout the county may apply for admission to the Kenmore Middle School, with its Arts and Communication Technology focus, as long as the building has sufficient capacity to accommodate the applicants.

Gunston and Wakefield Immersion Programs

The language immersion programs housed at Gunston Middle School and Wakefield High School provide an academic continuation of the elementary immersion programs provided at Claremont and Key. Students who leave the immersion program will return to their home school or apply for a transfer to remain in their previous school.

All qualified Immersion transfers to Gunston and Wakefield who reside outside of these schools' attendance areas will be admitted.

Wakefield AP Network

In addition to students in its regular attendance area and regular transfers, students throughout the county may transfer to Wakefield High School to participate in its AP Network.

Washington –Lee International Baccalaureate Program

Qualified International Baccalaureate transfers to Washington-Lee who reside outside of the Washington-Lee attendance area will be eligible for admission. Students who receive an IB transfer must enroll in the Pre IB/AP Government course in Grade 10 and enroll and complete three or more IB courses in both Grade 11 and in Grade 12 or apply for and receive a Non-IB

transfer to remain at Washington-Lee. Students not meeting these requirements will move to their home school for their high school education.

Applicants for the Grade 11 IB Diploma Program must successfully complete the Pre-IB/AP Government course in Grade 10 and the recommended courses outlined in the Program of Studies as well as the application packet meeting the requirements of the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO).

The number of IB slots available for transfer will be determined by the Superintendent or designee each year based on the previous year's Grade 9 admissions and Grade 12 completions. If the number of transfer applicants exceeds the number of positions, then a lottery will be conducted.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST)

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) is a Fairfax County public school designated by the Virginia Department of Education as a Governor's regional school offering a comprehensive college preparatory program emphasizing the sciences, mathematics, and technology. Any Arlington County student enrolled in grade eight may apply, and if selected, attend TJHSST tuition free. Ninth grade students may apply for replacement positions following the application process established by TJHSST.

The Arlington Public Schools shall provide transportation to and from TJHSST during regular school hours for Arlington students.

Reporting of Enrollment

The Superintendent will report annually to the School Board on the enrollment of all APS schools and programs, the number of transfers, and the exceptions to the five-percent limit on transfers within the Arlington Public Schools.

Appeals

Decisions made under this policy may be appealed to the Superintendent or designee. The appeal shall be submitted to the Superintendent by the parent/guardian, in writing, and should include the specific reasons and justification for why an exception should be granted. If families are dissatisfied with the answer from the Superintendent they may appeal in writing to the School Board.