

Spring 2026 Enrollment Management Plan

Executive Summary

The Enrollment Management Plan (EMP) outlines Arlington Public Schools' (APS) operational roadmap for the upcoming school year, ensuring that student enrollment and program needs are aligned with available facility capacity. The EMP is informed by historical enrollment trends, enrollment projections¹, school capacity utilization², and existing School Board policies³.

September 30, 2025, Membership Enrollment⁴ reported 26,675 K-12 students, 354 fewer students than the previous year⁵, a 1.3% decrease. Current projections show declining enrollment at the elementary level, stable enrollment at the middle school level, and short-term growth at the high school level. Overall, APS projects minimal net growth of 0.1% in the upcoming school year, followed by a gradual 0.8% decline by the 2030–31 school year.

For the 2026-27 school year, capacity utilization rates at the elementary level are projected to be 87%, with both middle and high school utilization at 90%.

Transfers & Program Changes

In recent years, neither targeted transfer opportunities nor neighborhood transfer options have resulted in the enrollment shifts APS anticipated. In the 2025–26 school year, only 54 students utilized available transfer options, 60 fewer than in previous year.

For school year 2026-27, APS will offer the following transfers:

Targeted elementary transfer

Sending School	Receiving School	Enrollment Management Plan Action(s) for 2026-27
Glebe	Cardinal	Cardinal will accept transfers from within the Glebe neighborhood attendance boundary, limited to planning unit 16090. No transportation will be provided.

¹ ["Fall 2025 Enrollment Projections Report."](#)

² ["Fall 2025 Projections Capacity Utilization."](#)

³ [Boundaries Policy B-2.1](#); [Boundaries B-2.1 PIP-1](#); [Options and Transfers, Policy J-5.3.31](#); [Options and Transfers-Elementary and Secondary J-5.3.31 PIP-1](#).

⁴ ["September 30, 2025, Membership Summary."](#)

⁵ ["September 30, 2024, Membership Enrollment."](#)

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Neighborhood middle school transfer

Sending School	Receiving School	Enrollment Management Plan Action(s) for 2026-27	No. Transfers Prior Years
All middle schools	Williamsburg	Open to all middle school students with priority to students in Nottingham and Tuckahoe's attendance zones residing in Swanson Middle School's attendance zone (planning units 16040, 16050, 16060, 16070, 16140, and 16130). No transportation will be provided.	2024-25: 8 2025-26: 46

Option school and program seats are reviewed annually to align with enrollment and capacity utilization. The seats allocated for APS option programs are outlined in [Table 1](#).

In collaboration with Academics and School Support, APS will implement the following program adjustments for School Year 2026-27.

- Move one Multi-Intervention Program for Students with Autism (MIPA) class from Wakefield to Washington-Liberty High School.
- Add a new MIPA class at Washington-Liberty High School.
- Formalize PreK Lab Programs at the Grace Hopper Center and Yorktown High School.

Students admitted to option programs may remain enrolled through completion. These changes align specialized programs with projected enrollment and instructional needs.

Please see [Option Schools and Programs](#) for additional information on the array of option schools and programs available at APS.

Summary

The Enrollment Management Plan is part of APS's annual planning cycle shown in [Figure 1](#) and reflects the division's ongoing efforts to align enrollment trends, program needs, and facility capacity. By limiting transfers, adjusting specialized programs, and maintaining stable option school offerings, APS aims to support balanced schools while maintaining access to high-quality programs across the division.

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Table 1

Seat Allocations for APS Option Schools and Programs, School Year 2026-27

School	Grade	Allocated Seats	Notes
PreK Lab Option Lottery			
Grace Hopper PreK Lab	PreK	10	PreK Office
Yorktown PreK Lab	PreK	10	PreK Office
Elementary Option Lottery			
Arlington Traditional	Kindergarten (4 classes)	96	No change
	PreK VPI (2 classes)	32	
Campbell Elementary	Kindergarten (3 classes)	72	No change
	PreK VPI (2 classes)	32	
Claremont Elementary	Kindergarten (4 classes)	96	No change
	PreK VPI (2 classes)	32	
Escuela Key Elementary	Kindergarten (4 classes)	96	No change
	PreK VPI (2 classes)	32	
Montessori Public School of Arlington (MPSA)	PreK 3	52	Seats provided by Principal
	PreK 4	8	
	PreK 5	5	
	1st	14	
Elementary Targeted Transfers			
Glebe Elementary to Cardinal Elementary	Kindergarten	5	Only open to students residing in planning unit 16090. No Transportation Provided
Middle School Neighborhood Transfers			
Williamsburg Middle School	6th	40	Open to all students with priority to students in Nottingham and Tuckahoe attendance zones residing in Swanson Middle School's attendance zone (planning units 16040, 16050, 16060, 16070, 16140, and 16130). No Transportation Provided
High School Option Lottery			
Washington-Liberty IB Program	9th	80	Open to all students
	10th	10	
	11th	5	
Wakefield High School AP Network	9th	5	Open to all students
Arlington Tech	9th	250	Open to all students
	10th	20	
	11th	10	

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School	Grade	Allocated Seats	Notes
H-B Woodlawn Lottery			
H-B Woodlawn	6th	75	Allocation of seats by elementary School, previously provided
H-B Woodlawn	9th	26	Allocation of seats by middle school previously provided

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Figure 1

Planning Timeline, School Year 2025-26

October	December-January	January
<p>September 30 Enrollment Snapshot</p> <p>The Sept. 30 official enrollment is published, which is the basis for the following school year’s Fall K-12 Enrollment Projections.</p>	<p>Enrollment Conversations with Principal Groups</p> <p>Planning staff conversations with Principals regarding upcoming adjustments to enrollment levels.</p>	<p>10-Year Fall Projections Report Published</p> <p>The Fall K-12 Enrollment Projections for the following school year and allocated PreK seats set by the Academics Office are shared online.</p>
January	February	
<p>Program Capacity Updates as Needed</p> <p>The Program Capacity Report includes program capacities at all Elementary and Middle Schools first published in SY2024-25. This report provides greater insight into space availability and needs at our schools.</p>	<p>January 31 Enrollment Snapshot</p> <p>January 31 enrollment is used to prepare the Spring Update to the Enrollment Projections for the following school year.</p>	<p>Enrollment Management Plan Published</p> <p>The plan includes steps APS is taking to manage enrollment for the following school year including transfers offered and placement for specific educational programs.</p>
February	May	June
<p>Spring Update to Projections Published</p> <p>The Fall K-12 Enrollment Projections and PreK allocations are updated with information from the Enrollment Management Plan. The Budget Office sends staffing budget allocation sheets to schools based on the Spring Update to Projections.</p>	<p>Relocatable Study Updates as Needed</p> <p>The Relocatable Study establishes locational placement for temporary relocatable classrooms at each school in APS based on enrollment, physical constraints and environmental impediments.</p>	<p>Pre-Capital Improvement Plan (Pre-CIP odd year) or CIP (even year)</p> <p>The Pre-CIP is developed and approved in the odd years, and the CIP is developed and approved in the even years. These plans focus on APS capital needs for the next 10-years.</p>
June - August		
<p>Planning Updates as Needed</p> <p>During the summer months, planning will make updates as needed to the projections methodology, boundary reviews, and recommendations to policies and policy implementation procedures (PIPs) related to planning projects. Weekly enrollment reporting for the coming school year begins mid-July through September 30th.</p>		