

**Arlington Public Schools**  
**School Board FY 2014 Priorities**

The School Board establishes annual priorities to assist in keeping the Board's work focused, effective and aligned with our Strategic Plan goals. In addition, the Board adopts separately annual Budget Direction to the Superintendent in development of the next year's fiscal year budget. The School Board's priorities for FY 2014 are as follows:

**Student Safety**

The School Board recognizes that student safety is paramount. To continue to ensure the safety of our students, the School Board will:

- Receive an update on the work of the Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator, a one-year, grant-funded position.
- Rely on input from the Multimodal Transportation and Student Safety Special Committee in reviewing and revising, as appropriate, transportation policies and practices to maximize student safety in all modes of travel to and from school.
- Receive an update on the work of the Security Coordinator, which is a new position this year.
- Review and revise, as appropriate, other policies and practices related to student safety.

**Student Achievement**

Consistent with the Strategic Plan goals to ensure that every student is challenged and engaged and to eliminate achievement gaps, the School Board will consider the resources and policies needed to support:

- Improved reading achievement for students in elementary, middle and high school, with an emphasis on eliminating achievement gaps.
- More students graduating with an advanced studies diploma.
- Increased instructional time for elementary schools with early release Wednesdays.
- Implementation of selected recommendations from the FY 2013 program evaluations for English Language Arts, Mathematics and World Languages and evaluations of services for English language learners and students with special needs.
- Enhanced, higher level Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) opportunities.
- A vision for student learning that provides more options and flexibility to attend school beyond the traditional school day and year, to access online courses, and to receive dual-enrollment credit with institutions of higher learning.

**Accountability**

The School Board reviews reports and data annually to monitor progress toward our Strategic Plan goals. Using this information, the Board adopts its budget and considers changes to policies and the program of studies to enhance student achievement and success. The School Board will review:

- The FY 2014 program evaluations of the Minority Student Achievement Office, Science, and Summer School.
- The baseline and trend data for the APS Key Performance Indicators.
- Information that addresses areas for improvement identified in the FY 2013 program evaluations.
- Reports of School Board advisory councils and committees.

The School Board also ensures that its resources are used effectively and efficiently and that APS complies with all laws. To this end, the School Board will:

- Hire an Internal Auditor to report to the Board and begin the work of the Board's Audit Committee, with the goal of improving school division performance and accountability.

To encourage and support the APS culture of continuous improvement, the School Board will:

- Support the school division's participation in the Senate Productivity and Quality Award (SPQA) program.

**Communication**

Recognizing that effective communication with staff, students, families, the Arlington community and Arlington County Board are essential to the success of our students, the School Board will:

- Enhance School Board communication using a variety of means, including our web page, open office hours, and School Board meetings.
- Promote greater family engagement, with an emphasis on improving student success, through our roles as liaisons to schools and various organizations.
- Receive input from citizens regarding a framework for family engagement and consider changes to the School Board's community engagement policy, with a goal of building the capacity of schools and families to partner to support student learning.
- Ensure that the community has a thorough understanding of the challenges that sustained and significant increased enrollment creates for APS and the return on investment of the high quality education that APS provides.
- Continue the long practice of strong collaboration with the County Board to meet the needs of the entire Arlington community.

- Ensure transparent public processes that actively engage the community in the Board’s decisions.

**More Seats for More Students**

Enrollment in APS has increased by approximately 21 percent in the last five years, from fewer than 19,000 students to 22,613 students last school year. This fall, we expect to meet the projected enrollment of nearly 23,600 students, which is a 4.5 percent increase over last year’s enrollment. By 2022, APS projects that we will enroll more than 30,000 students. Because of the shortage of seats across the County for this continued, growing student enrollment, and consistent with the Strategic Plan goal of providing optimal learning environments, the School Board will:

- Adopt a framework this fall for the FY 2015-2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and adopt the CIP in the spring.
- Award the construction contract for Ashlawn Elementary School; approve a concept design for the addition at Arlington Traditional School; approve the final design and award the construction contract for Elementary School #1 on the campus of Williamsburg Middle School; and award the contract for design services, and approve the concept and schematic designs for the addition at McKinley Elementary School.
- Consider criteria for the creation of new choice program schools.
- Develop a framework for and begin consideration of options to address secondary school crowding.
- Consider input from the Master Planning Committee regarding long-term planning for increased enrollment, given the limited APS property available, and in the context of Arlington County Government’s planning processes.
- Pursue an agreement for the sale of the Wilson property, which will provide resources to build more seats for our students where needed, while supporting the vision of Arlington County Government for redevelopment of the western Rosslyn area.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_