

Removes guaranteed admission preferences currently available for some attendance zones • Feeders - Barrett, Campbell • Neighborhood Option – Key Immersion • Cluster Option – Claremont • Team – Jamestown, Key, Science Focus & Taylor Changes elementary immersion to option only • Key & Claremont – redefined as option schools • No neighborhood admission preferences for elementary immersion Note: Every student is guaranteed a seat at their assigned neighborhood school Preschool PIP maintains guaranteed admission for PreK students attending option schools

Strengths	Challenges	Other thoughts
<p>Makes the lottery much more fair across the county</p>	<p>I am concerned that this change is NOT occurring at the same time as redistricting neighborhood elementary boundaries. Right now, for instance, Claremont has 60+ Oakridge students. If guaranteed admission is removed for Oakridge, this will lead to 1-2 more Kindergarten rooms (and eventually upper grades as well) each year. Oakridge is already critically overcrowded, and APS's largest elementary school.</p>	
<p>This simplifies the enrollment process</p>	<p>Concerned about affect on science focus. More kids will be zoned for it since they cannot choose key, and the school is already overcrowded.</p>	<p>Should discourage neighborhood transfers into science focus by ending sibling preference for neighborhood transfers.</p>
		<p>Redefining neighborhood schools that feed into each immersion program could result in less native Spanish speaking families.</p>
<p>YES remove the exclusive geographic preferences. all-lottery means you can have set aside for low-income families to make sure mix represents county.</p>	<p>Schools do benefit from being connected in a special way to the surrounding neighborhood. Is there a middle way instead of all or nothing?</p>	<p>Could you not allow an initial lottery for immediate neighbors? Up to 15% of the population? Then they go into larger lottery? What about set asides for SES?</p>

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	Screws Key neighborhood over completely and where do Claremont students go if not in the immersion program?	
equality in access to instructional choices; does not complicate boundary and enrollment management across schools	adjusting neighborhood school boundaries to sufficiently address balancing enrollment and diversity	need more flexibility in redrawing boundaries as needed in order to maintain balanced enrollment across system; may need to waive goal not to move student more than once during elem school until APS has caught-up with capacity needs.
I am glad to see the guaranteed admission preferences removed. When we applied to montessori, of our 4 choices, we were really limited to two options. Key and Campbell were off the table because we didn't live in th right neighborhood.		

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<p>This seems to be in line with the other parts of the policy.</p>	<p>However, and this is a BIG caveat, the results would be many (by my calculations approximately 40, see below) new kindergarteners going to Arlington Science Focus who would have gone to Key under the guaranteed admission program. Would Arlington Science Focus get another complete set of relocatable classrooms?</p>	
<p>Guaranteed admission preference created inequity and is archaic.</p>	<p>Students currently enrolled in either Claremont or Key should be grandfathered to stay for continuity of the children.</p>	
	<p>Students forced to go to schools outside of neighborhood -- more busing or parents having to drive or drive longer distances (time, natural resource waste)</p>	<p>More bonding when neighborhood schools can be used by people living in the neighborhood -- RECOMMEND KEEPING CURRENT</p>
<p>For years non-Team and non Cluster parents have complained. This will help that issue.</p>		<p>Will ASFS be able to accommodate all of the students that normally would attend Key?</p>

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		<p>People purchase very expensive homes in certain neighborhoods with the understanding that they will have preference for an immersion school. This change is frustrating and does not value those who consciously chose to move to a certain neighborhood.</p>
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<p>This is great!!!</p>		
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<p>Yes! Stop the preferential admissions for all but siblings! Give everybody the same shot at the option programs.</p>	<p>Those currently living in preferred admission neighborhoods aren't to like this. Stay strong! Resist the urge to give them a special grace period or whatever so that they'll get on-board (eg a Claremont-like "deal" still in place 15 years later.)</p>	
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<p>Improves the availability of language immersion programs (or artificially props up a discredited educational theory)</p>	<p>The rebalancing of Key's population, through both the desired 50/50 language preference and the broadening into a half county "Zone", will put enormous stress on Science Focus as the "neighborhood school" for the current Key attendance area. This will almost certainly necessitate major redrawing of the resulting Science Focus zone- a potentiality that is not being addressed in the current discussion.</p>	<p>Added to that the fact that the proposed zone is geographically separate from the location of the school, resulting in 100% APS provided transportation, and that the ASFS site does not accommodate bus traffic well. The dissolution of the "Team", while ultimately justified, seems ill considered and its ramifications poorly anticipated or understood. Staff should be required to consider, and plot, the long term plan for the Key/ASFS population, before the PIP is changed.</p>
<p>None</p>	<p>Again, the use of the term "option" makes this inscrutable. If Key is a "neighborhood option" what is Science Focus?</p>	<p>Are Key and Science Focus both option schools? Or are they both neighborhood schools?</p>

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None	This is a disaster, do not change the Tem school system. We are parents at ASFS and have a strong community thru the Team system. The fact that our kids come from different districts that are contiguous strengthens the diversity in the school but also allows friendships and community to develop because families are still within close proximity to each other. Do not disrupt our community.	
None. I do not think this proposed change is a benefit to the community.	Home owners expect a guarantee to the closest neighborhood school by mileage and you would have neighborhood schools that literally do not encompass immediate neighbors of the physical school location.	This feels like a poor decision and moving children further and further away from their homes to attend schools and spending more time and money on busing and transportation. Children shouldn't be spending so much time on the bus especially in elementary.
It further defines these schools as OPTION schools and makes them more accessible to all who feed into those schools.	Neighborhood (walkable zone) residents will not be happy	Families should understand that option schools are an OPTION. You should be committed to the particular learning experience and not just because it's convenient to home. We ALL have a neighborhood school that is the convenient choice.

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<p>It is good to get rid of the neighborhood preference for option schools. Otherwise, people can "buy" into an option school. The proposal improves accessibility.</p>	<p>How do you handle when there are no available seats to choose from for a transfer but your neighborhood school is more crowded than you are comfortable with? There should be an option for parents to deal with that scenario.</p>	<p>Preschools should be added to the options and neighborhood preference should be removed.</p>
	<p>I am concerned about the possible effect on Taylor, which is already overcrowded. (Opening Discovery did very little to relieve the crowding at Taylor.)</p>	
<p>Clarity</p>	<p>Is Drew affected?</p>	<p>We transferred our child to Campbell after a year at our neighborhood school. We needed that Siuth Arlington preference for Campbell because our neighborhood school is very low performing. I suggest reconsidering this issue of transfers for any neighborhood school that is close to not meeting AYP.</p>
	<p>Changing Key from a neighborhood school will have a cascading negative impact on ASFS and Taylor (already at capacity). These three schools are not the zones that should be transferring students INTO at this time.</p>	

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Really like this idea. Remove guaranteed admission, and guarantee admission to neighborhood schools.		
Taylor needs to be tied in with Science Focus, since it is many Taylor zoned families neighborhood school.	If you remove Key neighborhood preference, you will overload ASFS. And ASFS should be a neighborhood school.	VA Square / Cherrydale residents are not thrilled with guaranteed admission to Taylor - it is not a true neighborhood school.
	Guaranteed admission preferences should remain for Jamestown and Taylor - to the extent that students who move out of the Key/Science Focus district should be permitted to remain at the school. This district has a lot of rental and multi-family housing. The only available single family housing in the area is the most expensive per square foot housing in the County. Limiting the district will make the school much more transient.	
Allows fair opportunity for any Arlington student to apply to an option school.	Key and Science Focus numbers may be very impacted by this and may need to be reexamined whether Key should really become a neighborhood school. Science focus doesn't have enough space to become a neighborhood school	To confirm...ASFS is not currently a guarantee for Jamestown and Taylor schools, only Key. This should be clarified as it's not true.

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		<p>All students currently enrolled in Transfer School (including lottery students) and siblings should be grandfathered in and allowed to continue at current school</p>
<p>Removes the confusion over all of the choice options</p>	<p>Doesn't account for the boundary issues with Taylor, Key and ASFS</p>	<p>Per above, if you are making ASFS a true neighborhood school, make sure the 1 mile radius zone is changed to accommodate walkers</p>
	<p>My fear is the impact on neighborhood schools- will it impact enrollment?</p>	
<p>Opens up these schools to a bigger portion of residents. With current policy, available seats fill up before a lottery even occurs</p>		

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<p>I STRONGLY DISAGREE with these changes. I do not see any strengths in this decision.</p>	<p>By making Key a county wide lottery program you are pushing all of those students that would have gone to Key into ASFS, which is already overpopulated. There is no room for these students, The cafeteria and building cannot handle even more. Additionally ASFS might not be the right fit for every student. It is a rigorous program, there is a lot of homework, it is learning through a scientific approach. Key provided a wonderful secondary approach to learning giving parents a choice.</p>	<p>If you do this you must do something to expand ASFS. You must make sure that students already enrolled at Key get to stay there, and you must provide transportation for those students. ABOVE all we need to protect our currently enrolled students so that no changes hurt their education.</p>
<p>None</p>	<p>People moved into their neighborhoods for the particular school. A child should be able to go to the same school as their sibling .</p>	

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	<p>Iso ASFS is the most racially and fiscally diverse school in all of Arlington County. If ASFS becomes a neighborhood school, it will become a much less-inclusive school, and make for a less innovative /creative/globally-aware instruction and children as a result. If Key becomes an option school, I foresee major overcrowding at ASFS.</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. As a homeowner in Lyon Village and parent of two young children, these changes will impact my family in the near future.</p>
	<p>No grandfathering of existing students. Jamestown and Taylor lotteries need to go back to their school.</p>	<p>ASFS is going to be 200+% above capacity. More trailers isn't acceptable.</p>
<p>Ensuring 50/50 population through lottery</p>	<p>I bought my home because my neighborhood is zoned for Claremont.</p>	
<p>Agree that the key and claremont schools should be option schools.</p>	<p>Parents need to opt in for the lottery, do not automatically enroll all children in the lottery. It is critical that parents positively and through action choose immersion. It is a different experience and passive admittance could harm the community needed to make immersion successful.</p>	

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<p>Long overdue.</p>	<p>What is the "neighborhood" school in the Key/ASF zone now? Is it ASF? No other ES is in close proximity.</p>	<p>"Every student" is singular. "Their" is plural. Please be sure it is not written like this in the policy/PIP. Must balance 50/50 speakers for immersion. Claremont is *already* an option school. Key is being "redefined".</p>
	<p>(1) If option only does not get Key and Claremont enough students who speak Eng or Span, what is APS's Plan B? (2) Many neighborhood Key families who are low-income are greatly benefited by being able to send their children to Key, which is within walking distance. This is especially critical for families that don't have cars. These families make up an important part of our Spanish-speaking school community.</p>	
		<p>I feel very strongly that all students currently attending Science Focus, as well as any younger siblings who have not yet enrolled, should be permitted to stay at Science Focus. I also feel very strongly that homes zoned for Science Focus should remained guaranteed admission to Science Focus going forward.</p>

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Excellent ideas. Improves transparency, consistency, and fairness.	need to ensure demand is their for immersion - shouldn't be an issue though.	
Makes it more equitable to attend an option/Immersion school	Concern that Immersion being option only may decrease the percentage of native Spanish speakers-- would need data on current enrollments to see if this would happen	
makes sense since enrollment has grown so much.		
removes barriers to under-served populations who generally don't live in the cluster areas. With removal of guarantee-enrollment Caps need to be implemented also.		Walkable zones around the elementary school (for example students residing in the one planning unit that houses the school, should be given preference (but not guarantee). This can help with increased traffic. Hierarchy should be Siblings of current students, Students residing the the planning unit that houses the school, everyone else

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<p>Currently, too many students have guaranteed admission to the two schools</p>	<p>Having no geographic-driven preferences may end local support for immersion schools, endangering their sustainability as APS schools get more crowded. Resentment between ATS and its neighbors suggests that this is a bad model to replicate.</p>	<p>Guarantee admissions for 2 or 3 walkable-distance planning units around every "option" school to ensure good relations with neighbors, especially where the local "neighborhood" school is not within walking distance. DC is looking into this. Claremont neighborhood has urged this approach for months. Should be on the table.</p>
<p>Much more fair this way</p>		
<p>I fully support this change- it makes things more equitable and easier to understand for families coming into APS.</p>		<p>Please don't let the ASF parent faction defeat this proposal. We need to think equitably and longer-term across the county, and not give into the loudest voices. That's how we got into this mess to begin with.</p>
<p>This seems to be a much fairer process in regards to admission and making schools truly lottery based, as opposed to having certain geographic areas get admission to option schools and preventing others from attending.</p>		

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		<p>yes, Arlington really needs to simplify the option schools, does not make sense for some neighborhood schools to have priority admission to option</p>
	<p>ASFS becomes a very overcrowded school. Already, ASFS seats the entire 3rd grade in trailers. With the addition of all the children that would have gone to Key school as well it will be SUPER overcrowded. Furthermore, there is a push for the neighborhood in which ASFS currently sits to also be included in the ASFS zone, further adding to the numbers. ASFS said this would be addressed by sending kids to other neighborhood schools where space is available. But, how will you do that?</p>	<p>One idea, is to give overcrowded schools a priority in option schools to alleviate the overcrowding. But this may seem unfair to others. But it will also be unfair to some to be forced to go to another neighborhood school because their's is overcrowded.</p>

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None presented other than a perceived equity issue	Change of Key to Option school will likely lead to over-enrollment at ASFS without a boundary change. No study was done on negative impact on instruction either at Key or at ASFS (what is impact of sending more kids to a science intensive school that have no interest in science rather than those with more interest). How to create 2 immersion zones with equal demand. What impact might change have on Key demographics?	Need a boundary change to make sure that if ASFS is not the only neighborhood school that has no students within its 1m walkzone. Since schools are now defined as either option or neighborhood, the policy needs to specifically address grandfathering to provide that currently enrolled students and concurrently enrolled siblings GUARANTEED admission, not just preference. Otherwise it is inequitable as compared to students at pure option schools who go first in lottery.
		Key zone needs a real neighborhood school option within its boundaries. The Key Immersion program could be moved to the current ASFS building to allow the current Key building to be a regular, walkable, neighborhood school.
	If Key becomes an immersion, Taylor and science focus will be over crowded more than what they are now.	Key should remain an option school for the team.
Updates the admissions scheme to reflect current demographics.	ASFS will be a neighborhood school outside its neighborhood!	

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<p>Removing guaranteed admission preferences provides more EQUAL access for all students to option schools.</p>	<p>Issue for the immersion programs: Native Spanish speakers who currently attend the immersion program and are able to maintain Spanish and learn English may not apply to immersion option schools. These families are highly-valued members of the immersion schools, and targeted efforts may need to be in place to encourage native Spanish-speaking families to apply for immersion options.</p>	
<p>The guaranteed admission preference which contributes to the overcrowding at Barrett etc should be removed. This is an antiquated policy. Only kids in the Barrett neighborhood should have guaranteed admission to Barrett.</p>		<p>This is a good proposal - namely the removal of guaranteed admission preferences in a district such as Barrett. Unless you live in the Barrett district/neighborhood you should not be guaranteed a spot.</p>
<p>This proposed change encourages parents and children who are really interested in immersion to actively seek the program.</p>	<p>There may be families within the county who are very interested in attending but at not have sufficient resources or available information to be aware of how to participate in the immersion program.</p>	<p>I encourage APS analyze how this proposed change could interact with the 50/50 proposal. I would also suggest APS make a concerted effort to reach out to the Spanish speaking community within the county to make sure it is aware of these impending changes.</p>

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