

Creating zones for Elementary and Middle Schools

Zone 1 (West)

Zone 2 (East)

Strengths	Challenges	Other Thoughts
<p>Would be a wonderful way to promote diversity which is significantly lacking in many N. Arlington schools.</p>	<p>Existing families who have students in schools that will now be OUTSIDE Of their zone.</p>	<p>What supports will APS provide to teachers and staff in N. Arlington schools who may see a large uptick in ESL students in their classes given the proposed new configuration based on zones? Is APS at all worried about changing rankings to our schools that may result from this reorganization? How will APS ensure that teachers are enabled/empowerd to teach students from vastly different language backgrounds, while still providing attention to all students?</p>
<p>Terrible idea</p>	<p>It doesn't make sense to have Abingdon and CIS kids who are from South Arlington neighborhoods (e.g. Claremont, Fairlington, and Columbia Forest neighborhoods) be bussed all the way north to Williamsburg. Ditto for kids who attend Taylor - bussing them all the way south to Gunston doesn't makes sense.</p>	<p>Is there funding and staff capacity to offer Spanish immersion at two Middle Schools? And library services, etc? And funding for extra buses and drivers?</p>
	<p>added costs and transportation problems.</p>	<p>Why - what request was made for this? Shouldn't Jamestown or Nottingham be in the "East" zone? Also, how can you turn Key (an elementary school that your own numbers say will be the 2nd largest in the county) from a neighborhood school into a countywide program. Won't this mean that Science Focus and Taylor will have more than 850 kids?</p>

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		<p>1) siblings must be guaranteed admission to ASFS no matter what school zone they are currently in. Sibling preference is not enough. 2) Students currently receiving bussing to ASFS should maintain their APS transportation. 3) All neighborhood schools must have a walk zone - If ASFS is to become a neighborhood school as proposed, it is essential that a walk zone be created around the school.</p>
<p>The strength is the attempt at creating diversity through choice programs.</p>	<p>Transportation will be difficult and expensive. I do not like the limited focus on STEAM, IB, and Immersion.</p>	<p>Create greater diversity in program offerings rather than 2 each of the same; have county-wide programs rather than zoned schools.</p>
<p>looks good</p>		
<p>I like this</p>		

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	current zoning works better; this involves too much moving across the county for students; Key students currently don't seem to want to attend Wakefield for immersion -- they want to go back to their neighborhood high school	
Appears to address Arlington's North-South divide in education quality	Parents of students who bought houses based on school district quality will be very unhappy	Instead of forcing some native English speaking students into Spanish-only "immersion" programs, have one or two countywide option elementary and middle schools in South Arlington with the mission of preparing students to pass a TOEFL test before high school.

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	<p>Reed needs to be a neighborhood school NOT an option school. McKinley is WAY overcrowded. Why in the world would the capacity of the renovation be 680ish and open with 730 students and a pittance of green space? I am very concerned that the county is talking about educating the whole child while simultaneously approving plans with inadequate space to run, play, and learn outside.</p>	
<p>divides county in a more equal way - includes kids of all backgrounds in each group</p>		
<p>Economic and racial diversity. Also aligns the more urban dense areas from Rosalyn to shirlington</p>	<p>Traffic. Glebe and Catlin springs can't handle more buses and school related cars. How to encourage public transit and safe walk/bike</p>	

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<p>this plan has NO strengths</p>	<p>this plan has MANY challenges: increases transportation logistics/costs, longer bus rides for kids, earlier bus stop times for kids which reduces their available sleep time, increased safety risk to kids due to their increased exposure to Arlington traffic, decreased sense of community at a school if it pulls from geographically disparate neighborhoods who are less able to gather during/outside of school hours due to increased travel logistics</p>	<p>I see no benefit to the children in the Zone 1 / Zone 2 plan</p>
<p>Tries to break up the "North/South" divide</p>	<p>Has children going much further away than necessary (i.e. Abington to Williamsburg). Transportation times are already way too long, and often obscenely early. Please do not make them unnecessarily long.</p>	

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Probably better than North and South when it comes to demographics	Does not really address the root problems of the NOorth-South division. Could create more divisions within our county. APS already pits neighborhood against neighborhood with its decision-making process and there is concern that this could be worse	This will be meaningless unless school boundaries are revised accordingly and in a way that improves diversity at ALL the schools.
An east west division might finally bring more diversity to our far north schools		
If Zones are created fairly with balanced populations in each, then seems fairer and more transparent in terms of students having access to options.	Adjusting zones as populations change.	
	I don't believe it solves any diversity issues. Only reallocates it.	I don't like the east/west zone idea at all
	Option schools should be county wide - zones don't add a value unless there is a significant transpiration savings. Option schools should be truly open to EVERY student in the county.	Have you examined the academic outcomes of the schools you put in each zone? Are they equivalent for like groups? I don't believe they are but I have not done the analysis.

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The most logical and equitable (from a geographic as well as socio-economic point of view) non-curriculum planning idea to come out of APS in at least 17 years.	Push back from segments of the community that like the percieved exclusivity of their part of Arlington and its schools.	
Getting warmer on diversity	Need to even the PTA pots - share the money in all schools	
	How will APS ensure that the quality of education and services in all schools remains high with unanticipated challenges related to combining students from dramatically different socio-economic backgrounds into one learning environment?	
		Would this mean Rosslyn would no longer be Williamsburg/Yorktown?
To maintain socioeconomic and racial/ethnic diversity at option schools, maintaining an east/west zone division (NOT north/south) is essential	Because of the distances involved, please put option programs in central locations wherever possible	

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		What is the purpose of creating these east/west zones? Who do we want to bus kids from south Arlington to North Arlington schools & vice Verma? Seems like long bus rides, waste of tax payer dollars & disruption of community
	what problem is the "zone" concept trying to solve? if we retain the concept of "optional" schools, then we should focus "equity" on lottery/access; if we have found a better curriculum that should be replicated, let's identify the specific programs that are working and scale them	
No thoughts		
Very good idea, addresses diversity and inclusion issues well.		
Hopefully provides more equity within school system	Balancing numbers within each option school	Will there be enough room for students wanting to transfer to another program

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	Zones may work for some schools, but not for Immersion as explained above.	Immersion should be a county school and should be more centrally located for the benefit of all the students attending from the whole county.
None.	dividing up the county to 4 pieces. transportaion becomes a major issue. No one will send their kids from one corner of the county to the other. this will result in lack of diversity in our schools more than the way they are now.	
Working against the north- south biases that seem to be causing bad feelings.		
	Challenges for middle involve overcrowding and APS's relative inability to predict individual school enrollment. Allowing zone admissions will just exacerbate this problem.	Please stick to neighborhood schools.

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<p>integrates north and south arlington communities</p>	<p>transportation; creates new divsion of east -west-- is that better or just different?; leaves several communities moving from one zone to another and losing friendships and community</p>	
<p>We already basically have zones today's, but we just don't call it out. Our elementary schools are neighborhood schools and typically those elementary schools align to a middle school. I don't see this as a major change, but Arlington parents will find a way to complain. They need to just deal with growth and get over it.</p>		<p>I do like the expansion of immersion programs at the elementary level. I'm not convinced that Spanish in elementary school today is preparing those kids for Spanish in middle school.</p>
		<p>It is a fine idea but I do not believe it will stop people thinking about North/South divide.</p>

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The tradition of North and South conversations has not served the County well, so why not consider the basis of the County divide and encourage a re-thinking?	It is a political response to an economic issue of wealthy and poorer with neighborhoods.	Does this once again encourage a division of thinking in a very small County....with what end in sight. What is the vision?
I like this concept.		
Will encourage socioeconomic diversity within zones.	Will mean that far northern and far southern students will have to travel far to go to a choice school. However, that seems OK since the choice schools are optional; families who don't want to travel far can choose their neighborhood school instead.	East/West is much better than North/South. Consider rezoning high schools East/West as well (instead of the current neighborhood boundaries for Y, W-L, and W), to improve diversity & inclusion in the high schools.
		doesn't this already exist for immersion elementary?
Nothing	unnecessarily complicated and no new value added	TOTALLY OPPOSE this concept
only 2 zones	TOO LONG of a commute, north to south. We do not need zones, we need neighborhood schools only	
Simplifies the process		

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none	dividing into zones creates bias, favoritism and inequality	This concept looks suspicious.
	LONG travel times. This decreases accesss for parents who don't own cars.	
Dividing east-west is a terrific idea. The north-south divide will persist unless the school board does something bold like this. I am not convinced that transportation will be significantly more costly than under the current model. Even if it is, that is a worthwhile price to take a big step toward integrating the county.		
		This is not fiscully responsible. People generally move into areas so that their children can attend neighborhood school. You are proposing extensive busing that will be a burden on the taxpayers, the children, the infastructure, etc.
		Initial reaction is "meh" not sure if this holds up or furthers the north south divide.

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		oppose, only neighborhood schools, no special zones or focus
		That will divide the county even more. Try to make it more diverse.
	it redistricts some zones by following this - e.g. some glebe planning units end up at Yorktown currently - that would change with this concept	
an interesting idea to balance overcrowding between north and south arlington, and to help diminish the historical attitudes about "south arlington vs north arlington schools", helps with diversity	overall this will create more requirements for busing all over the county	

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None	Arlington is already so divided with "haves" and "havenots" mentality (right or wrong). Adding the east/west divide further segregates our community, and leaves us open for more criticism like "well of COURSE the IB for elementary is at Reed...that's the north WEST portion of arlington. Why didn't they put it in south west" etc.	Having two IB programs within 2 blocks of eachother (Reed/Swanson) doesn't seem equitable for others in the county. Also logistically it doesn't make a lot of sense; suggest moving the elementary IB to another location/in south arlington to more equitably spread access to others in the community.
basing it on east/west instead of north/south	still inequity within zones	
NOTHING!	All of these choices are ridiculous ---- focus on neighborhood schools that have the same curriculum.	Stop trying to change the demographics of schools. Focus on neighborhood schools and be more creative with finding seats.
		terrible idea. Fix the problems with overcrowding rather than jerry rigging everything
Good idea	There will be community push-back from those who prefer the status quo, but you must make a plan that is for the greater good, and not just more of the same	I think this plan is a good step towards integration, which is the ONLY thing that has lessened the achievement gap. It's good for everybody.

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		The system needs to change to be more equitable for ASFS enrollment