

What Do You Want For APS?	Note	Other	Comm.	World lang.	Innovation	Acad. Ach./ Excellence	Prepare global citizens, students for success	Staff voice, happy staff	Comm. Voice	Small class sizes	Fiscal Resources	Safe	Supported	Challenged	Engaged (inc. Happy)	Healthy	1 to 1	Equity across schools, classrooms/ consistency	School Choice/ Options	Personalized learning	Rigorous focus on academic fundamentals/ back to basics	Lower stress/ whole child	Achieve. gap	Diversity & inclusive	Future workplace skills/ 21st century skills	Pay raises/ better benefits for staff	Excellent/ knowledgeable Teachers/other staff	Prof. dev. for staff	Need to plan for/growth, manage facilities processes and planning		
			66	8	16	9	72	35	24	8	40	40	59	88	132	106	46	35	35	43	56	29	9	22	89	17	9	49	16	81	
I want reasonably priced and functional buildings, textbooks designed and used to teach children well, and teachers and support personnel who are knowledgeable, understand how children learn (even if they don't have a degree in education or aren't "certified"), and dedicated to doing their jobs with excellence.		x									x																x		x		
* Improvement in teacher student ratio * Smaller classes * More state-of-the-art equipment * More community support * More partnerships from the community		x								x			x																		
*No more trailers in schools *Small class size *More traditional schools (like ATS) *offer more foreign languages in elementary school (Chinese, French, etc.)				x																	x								x		
*Quality, well-paid teachers. *Tech focus. *Better sex ed.		x															x									x	x				
..the best		x																													
1) Small, intimate classes where the teachers really know the students well 2) Excellent teachers who are drawn to work at APS because we appreciate the incredible value they bring and we compensate them well for it. 3) Challenging curriculum for above average/gifted students. Sometimes it seems like the "extra resources" go only towards the kids who need extra support in the classroom, and not the kids who easily excel.										x				x							x							x			

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A place that cements core skills, writing, math, reading comprehension, health, environment while introducing young minds to be innovative thinkers.				x												x					x								
A quality education with the priority on the whole child—physical and emotional wellbeing, along with intellectual learning. Homework should be kept at a minimum so that children have the time to decompress, pursue/discover their own interests, read for pleasure—and not be forced to choose between challenging courses and sleep. In high school, this approach would benefit the students at all levels: Last Spring’s survey showed 70% of Arlington teens report feeling stressed about school.		x										x	x	x	x	x						x							
A Responsive Classroom Less Focus on Standardize Tests - More Problem Solving without Technology							x																						
A safe and supportive environment. Excellent teachers, academic rigor. Small classes, diverse student body. Courses that meet the interests and needs of a wide range of kids. Responsive, knowledgeable staff. Opportunities to nurture empathy through interacting with peers from all cultural and socioeconomic levels. An environment that fosters independence, where kids can take creative and personal risks, fail, and learn from their experience. Did I mention smaller classes? ;)		x			x					x		x	x							x				x					
A safe environment that prepares the students for their post high school plans.							x					x													x				
A safe learning environment.												x																	
A safe, diverse school where our children receive an excellent education from teachers who are well educated, well trained, and paid a good living wage.												x												x		x			

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Different programs to help support students on their needs, like more reading support, better IEP programs.		x											x							x			x						
Diversity																								x					
Diversity / Equality of Opportunity																							x	x					
Diversity and walkable schools. Keep special ed at the current levels or better																													
diversity, a safe space for learning.												x												x					
Do a better job of actual teaching and curriculum instruction. At both Williamsburg and Yorktown, the skill level of my kids' teachers is hit or miss, and my kids are lucky in that they don't have special needs.														x	x			x										x	
Educating the WHOLE child - arts/creativity; social-emotional well-being a place where it is not stressful for little kids, but an exciting, nurturing incubator of our future citizens - less tests, more hands on, real world, problem solving and meaningful development of mind & skills. PLAY is backed by research as critical to success! Diverse - inclusive - willing to approach teaching/learning creatively					x							x	x	x	x	x								x					
Educating the Whole Child and preparing students to cope with challenges, setbacks, and stress. A focus on developing students who are resilient and grounded will be essential to their role as global citizens.							x					x	x	x	x	x						x							
Education results on par with the best school programs in the world. Giving our kids an education that is competitive with countries.						x	x							x											x				
Education to help all of our APS students to be successful. Diverse student populations.							x							x										x					
Educational equity, welcoming schools, minority achievement, academic differentiation, teacher professional development, student engagement, and a plan to deal with capacity issues														x	x					x			x					x	x

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Enriched curriculum at the middle school level. Remove iPads as the primary teaching tool. And please don't tell me they are one of several tools. I have 3 children in the system and for the 4th and 7th graders the iPad IS the ONLY tool,														X			x													
ensure students are successful, have a voice and choice and have access to a world class education, and leave the public school systme ready to be engaged in the community						X						X		X	X															
equal opportunity for every child to feel healthy, safe, supported, engaged and academically challenged.											X	X		X	X	X														
Equality among schools. Tired of the northern schools being ranked higher, getting 100% of the National Merit Semifinalists, etc., and APS doing nothing about it.																		X												
Equitable quality of education regardless if one lives in North or South Arlington. My sense is that living in South Arlington limits the quality of education my children will receive, especially for middle and high school. HB Woodlawn seems to be the only good option, but there are limited slots available. I would love it if there was another HB Woodlawn type school available.																	x		x											
equity																			X					X						
equity and diversity Teacher empowerment. More tools (not just more training) for disruptive students who rob others of good instruction in the classroom. Sending to principal daily is definition of insanity and doesn't serve anyone well. This extends to courage and ability to discipline students who make racist jeers at sport events. Keep devices out. Kids need to learn to interact live and make eye contact.							X									x	x						x							

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focus on the achievement gap instead of expanding its program to include even more																						X								
focus on well around students, emphasis on emotional intelligence instead of focusing on academic only. Also more recess for elementary school kids.												X			X	X														
For all children to be welcomed, loved, and allowed to thrive.												X	X	X																
for all students to believe they can achieve all that is possibly by being a part of APS						X						X	X																	
For Arlington to be a leader in immersion education. The leaders of tomorrow will be fluent in multiple languages and multiple cultural — Arlington should prepare students for the future.				X														X												
For every child to be prepared for the workforce educationally.						X																			X					
For every child to feel safe, valuable and important so they can achieve their goals.											X	X		X																
For principals to support their teachers and treat them with respect and fairness, so the teachers can do the same for the students.								X																						
For someone to actually lead with a vision. I found it ironic when they put all the initiatives on a regular piece of paper, no one could read it, APS is too fragmented in the way they do things. There is such a fixation on diversity but the schools do not reflect it. Talk the talk but do not walk the walk. You always ask for input but will we hear the results of the input? Will it have an impact		X						X	X															X						

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For teachers to be there for kids when they are thinking of committing suicide (comment from 6th grader). For teachers to be there for students when they need to be heard; if they're different than other students; so students can feel safe.	Student											x	X			X														
For the middle school infrastructure to catch up to the elementary infrastructure by using the empty Arlington Cty buildings. Not all children require large play grounds. For academic differentiating among students in middle school by allowing possibly online learning or utilizing the HBW education formula in more locations. To educate teachers to own their behavior and earn respect versus wanting to to join the students in being cool or being afraid of them.														X						X							x		x	
For them to continue to provide excellent education for the diverse and changing population of our county.						x								x									x							
Foreign language classes starting in kindergarten. Action plan to address future shortage of slots for middle and high schools				x															x										x	
Fully inclusive public mission regarding race, religion gender, socio-economic status.																							x							
Good academics, good programs for arts. Strong IB and AP programs. Less overcrowding through new schools.						x																							x	
Good education for all students from walkable neighborhood schools.						x																								
good education for my children - both in academics and social-emotional learning						x							x	x																
good quality education, less fields and playground equipment, less traffic. A walkable school																x														
GREAT Teachers! Support the teachers, don't stress about the "technology" - ipads for ES, not needed.							x									x										x				

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High quality instruction by Teachers who engage passionately to bring out the best in each student. A learning environment that respects and supports all cultures and ability levels irrespective of race, creed, color, income level, social status, etc.												x	x	x	x	x								x						
High Quality Instruction Focus on the Whole Child Close the Achievement Gap Expose Children to Diversity Instill values and character						x						x	x	x	x	x						x		x						
High quality instruction Meeting needs of EACH child, differentiation Innovation					x									x						x										
High quality teachers and buildings for our students																											x		x	
High standards, challenging and engaging curriculum for students at any ability level, continued focus on the whole child and having schools be supportive, bully-free environments, happy staff and students, and diverse classrooms to prepare students to better understand and someday work with a wide range of people.						x		x				x	x	x	x	x						x								
Highly qualified teachers with time to prepare lessons to teach the students. Our teachers should not be overwhelmed with having to use technology to stay in touch with parents or to share the students work. Their focus should be on making the classroom the best environment for instruction. It is important that there is not a high turnover of teachers or principals. The work environment should be such that they want to stay in the APS system.								x					x	x			x										x			

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I want a lot for APS? I want APS to use its budget wisely and in an efficient and effective way. i.e. careful stewardship of resources and utilization of community and volunteer expertise. I think that APS can do more to capitalize on the fact that we have a diverse student population which is very international and tap that cultural knowledge and experience for the betterment of all students. Each school should have a parent manual that is translated.		X							X		X													X						
I want ALL students to have access to excellent programs and then I want to see students supported and encouraged to stretch themselves!						X							X	X																
I want APS to aggressively plan for the increased numbers of children who will be entering the school system in the coming years, keeping an eye toward maintaining high quality and happy teachers. Schools are crowded (some more so), and a remedy is badly needed. Additionally, I would like for APS to provide increased specialty options in all schools not just the choice school. APS should look closer at models working overseas and consider adjusting more practices																	X	X								X			X	
I want APS to be a system that has ample choices for different learning styles, that fosters a sense of community in the schools, that prioritizes inclusion of all students, and that makes logical decisions about the allocation of resources, the school placement, and the defining of boundaries. I also want APS to take the idea of relocating the immersion program out of the boundary process and take a strategic look at immersion overall.				X							X								X				X							

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I want APS to provide an inclusive learning environment where students with disabilities learn alongside their typically developing peers, from pre-K through the end of high school. This will require education and training for teachers, to show them how to run a classroom with different kinds of learners and to achieve mutual benefit for all students. APS teachers should be incentivized to keep students with special needs in their classrooms, not to shunt them away to separate environments.																							X					X	
I want APS to provide my child with an education that allows her to be a confident writer, speaker and life-long learner capable of critical thinking and able to engage as a responsible global citizen. I want my child to be caring and have an educational background and skills that allow her to solve problems big and small.						x								x											x				
I want Arlington Public Schools to recruit and retain its highly qualified teachers. In order for this to occur I feel employees should continue to receive a step and cost-of-living increase every year. Another suggestion to the School Board is to evaluate its leaders on this basis. I find it sad that schools with high turnover rates are keeping the leaders who are the reason its staff are transferring or leaving for Fairfax.							x																		x	x			

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I want our schools to be a force in the county that commits to the value of diversity, even as our neighborhoods become less diverse. I want a school system that respects that the value of diversity as a component of learning and in the development of global-minded citizens cannot be gainsaid. I want my child's school to open their mind to the experience of others, not just provide top-notch classroom instruction. I want a strategic plan that reflects deep respect for teachers and their voices.						x	x																x						
I want schools that are safe with well-educated teachers who love kids and teaching and practice positive discipline. I also want small class sizes and for my kids to go to schools near my house.										x		x	x	x	x												x		
I want schools that value each member of our community - this includes students with disabilities. We need to ensure students with disabilities are able to participate in all aspects of student life and be seen as part of the community. Too often in APS children with significant special needs are put in self contained rooms - there is no research to support that this approach is best																							x						
I want schools to offer a rigorous education that recognizes that each student's needs are individual. I want schools to recognize teachers as professionals who are best able to meet their own professional needs when they are given autonomy and empowered.																			x							x	x		

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Keep the standards high. enforce dress code. Bring the drug sniffing dogs in. There are way too many shenanigans going on. my 7th grader had her ears and belly peirced in the auditorium by fellow student IN SCHOOL under watch of the teachers who were really just talking w eachother and not watching the kids. Also the highschool laptops block parental controls so they can listen to foul language songs on SPOTIFY, and watch UTUBE when they are supposed to be studying. We need control												x		x			x													
Kids should go to school in a safe, nurturing, and creative space. Arlington County is one of the most expensive areas in which to live and charges its fair share of taxes. We expect a sound investment in our schools, teachers, and related facilities to make Arlington schools the most competitive in the commonwealth and nation.						x				x	x	x		x																
language availability				x																										
Less ambiguous questions on its surveys.		x																												
LESS CRowded neighborhood schools with more activities and community oriented programs.																			x										x	
Less crowding.																														x
Less stress for students to go to college. More oppourtunities for project-based learning.		x										x										x								
Less testing, more opportunities for hands on learning and teacher training to provide that. The AP studies seminar is a great model that ALL students would benefit from having the opportunity to participate.															x													x		
lessen the segregation of schools																							x							
Lunch got those who are on free or reduced meals on short days.																														
Maintain: high academic standards, diversity (socioeconomic as well as racial), and avoid overcrowding at all levels.					x																		x						x	

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More fun in it; it's kind of dull. Make the classes more interesting and ask the students how they prefer to learn (different ways to learn). More after-school programs. (comments from 8th grader)	Student												X		X																
More good options for middle school and high school, especially for those of us who live in South Arlington. More magnet programs that are actually competitive would really be great. The only magnet school for middle and high school grades that has competitive scores is HB Woodlawn. The chances of getting in are so slim.							X												X												
more language offered		X																													
more money, raise taxes										X																					
More neighborhood high schools. No more "mega" schools. I do not want my daughter at a school as big as T.C. Williams, as fear we're getting there. I'll pay the taxes! Invest in the infrastructure.	X										X																			X	
More opportunities for Spanish Immersion at the middle and high school level. Expansion of the IB program to middle schools (new Middle School and Williamsburg) and other high schools, Yorktown and Wakefield. We need to address the overcrowding more proactively. I know this is a bit issue for the school board, but they have to think strategically way ahead of schedule and identify correct projections for the future. Being conservative and planning more seats than projected isn't a bad idea				X															X											X	
more opportunities for special education students	translated																							X							

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More opportunity for all students...particularly through increased diversity. The high school boundary result last year was atrocious and the school board should be ashamed. That needs to be fixed and putting more clear priorities that are actually followed in the strategic plan is a good first step.																							x						
More options with School choices. Right now, Immersion and Montessori are located in South Arlington -- Gunston and Wakefield. This doesn't help the County as a whole.																		x	x										
more progress and focus more on the whole child. Ex. Social, emotional development, letting kids problem-solve, interact, work out inter-personal problems (with guidance) as well as getting outside/movement.												x	x	x	x	x													
More rigorous and demanding curriculum. More engaging instruction - fewer worksheets, more thoughtful projects It's not 1983. A thoughtful, strategic plan for using technology. Just repeating the words 'personalized learning' does not make it exist.														x	x					x	x								
More science, technology & art		x																											
More space for another comprehensive high school! Less crowded middle and elementary schools! Special Ed services that better prepare graduates for the world after school!																							x	x					x
More STEM and continued diversity.		x																					x						
More unstructured outdoor time for our elementary aged kids. Real grass, ,not synthetic turf. Teachers who are truly enthusiastic about working with kids each day at, not focused on testing and technology.		x													x		x										x		

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Rigor and equity. Students should be pushed to reach their potential and should have the same access to opportunities and quality instruction regardless of where they live. Students from diverse backgrounds should learn side-by-side.														x	x						x									
rigorous academic options																					x									
safe												x																		
safe schools, academically rigorous, diversity, administrators who focus on students and parents and not their self serving interests. I want passionate teachers.										x				x							x						x			
safe, not too crowded schools. start middle school at a reasonable hour. Kids are walking before the sun is up.												x																		x
Safety and a the best instruction for our kids						x						x																		
Same quality of access for all students. Students should not have to bus to get amenities offered in other school. A curriculum that values art (music, fine arts, theater) as much as STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). A fourth neighborhood high school rather than continuing to pack students into the existing 3 neighborhood high schools. Include education for life-long health (physical fitness/exercise, food choices).														x		x														x
Schools are community hubs for the various public and social services that families need for their children to thrive. Every student is on track to graduate and enroll in postsecondary education or start a job/training program leading to meaningful employment and a living wage. Students are raised to become engaged citizens at the local, State, national and global levels. Diversity of backgrounds and perspectives are expressed and valued.							x						x											x						

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The APS curriculum is often a mile wide and an inch deep. Please don't cover so many topics within a particular subject, but delve deeper into fewer topics to allow for critical thinking and deeper discussions with students. Reduce reliance on teaching to the standardized test. I love the block scheduling that has started in the middle schools. Individual iPads should not be provided in K-5, even as a tool - they are distracting and contribute to the increasingly small attn spans.																	x				x									
The best educational systems for all levels of learning.						x								x																
The best educators to provide a life long love of learning in our children!															x												x			
The impossible I guess. More, smaller schools, stronger connections between teachers and students., teachers who can teach from their passions rather than to an SOL....										x		x		x	x												x			
to ?? To practice across school		?																												
To academically push our students to high levels.														x																
To attract the best teachers, so students receive the best education possible. I want to see impressive college matriculation lists, which is an indicator of strong teaching and future success. I want to see a major de-emphasis on technology. APS's relationship with Apple seems too cozy - our children's teachers rely on the ipad for everything - test prep, test taking, homework, etc. It would be nice to see a re-emphasis on quality classroom teaching, and less of a reliance on technology.														x			x										x			
To be a diverse and safe place for children to learn.												x												x						

What Do You Want For APS?	Note	Other	Comm.	World lang.	Innovation	Acad. Ach./ Excellence	Prepare global citizens, students for success	Staff voice, happy staff	Comm. Voice	Small class sizes	Fiscal Resp Resources	Safe	Supported	Challenged	Engaged (inc. Happy)	Healthy	1 to 1	Equity across schools, classrooms/ consistency	School Choice/ Options	Personalized learning	Rigorous focus on academic fundamentals/ back to basics	Lower stress/ whole child	Achieve. gap	Diversity & inclusive	Future workplace skills/ 21st century skills	Pay raises/ better benefits for staff	Excellent/ knowledgeable Teachers/ot her staff	Prof. dev. for staff	Need to plan for/growth, manage facilities processes and planning	
To engage with students so that there is more involvement in activities/groups that don't limit what they should be able to do or access.															x															
To get back to the basics. Get rid of word study in elementary schools. Find a new and better spelling program. Let teachers teach and not push curriculum. Have the students in AP courses pay for the AP exams. They should not be free. Take back the iPads. They are useless at home. Stop spending money on new curriculums every other year. Teach grammar. Deal with problem children not just brush them aside.										x		x					x				x									
To give all kids independence and ownership in their education. Voice & choice is a great start. Include sped kids and minorities in all your thinking. Treat diversity as actually having educational value for all kids and families. Differentiating education within the classroom is not working. It is too much to ask of a teacher with 20+ students. The 1-1 technology initiative is good but provide county mandated limits on screen time at school. Literacy & teaching dyslexics needs continued focus.														x	x		x			x				x						
To have the staff and supplies they need to help engage kids in class. Have more field trips to visually apply what they are learning. I want the school to be able to protect our kids from any danger. Teach teacher to be more observant about dangers and surrounding. Be able to provide free lunch for kids who are unfortunate (lack of parental care or financial struggles).										x	x					x												x		
To have the students respect each other and to have schools be diverse.													x											x						

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To provide more flexibilities for students with disabilities. That is the whole purpose of IEPs. If a student needs preparation for SOL and study skills, that is what the student should get to obtain FAPE. This is especially important if a student was not provided the proper level of education in elementary or middle school. Then the student will need to overcome that gap in High School, and he needs to get one-on-one instruction specifically on study skills, academics and test taking.																				x			x								
To provide the best education in the country while promoting diversity and the free exchange of ideas.						x						x																			
To provide the best possible education in a safe environment						x						x																			
To provide top educational opportunities to our children. To lead by example. To look ahead and plan for the future in both teaching and student population. To allow for a safe learning environment.						x						x		x																	
To recognize each child's talents and help improve their academic skills. APS should seek to lift up low performing kids, but should be careful not to penalize high achieving children by forcing them to continue to do work that they have already mastered. Schoolwork should challenge and strengthen kids' abilities but shouldn't penalize them with hours or rotework or unnecessary homework, particularly in the lower grades.														x						x											
To recognize that teachers with advanced degrees in broad developmental areas of study, and with several years of experience, are the best informed members of the APS community to inform the direction forward. For APS to optimally benefit from them, APS needs to restructure the sources for decision making, and to put more of those teachers at the table.								x																			x				

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To remember the whole child.												x	x	x	x	x						X							
Top notch schools that provide excellent preparation for College. Less focus on Standardized State Testing and more focus on SAT/ACT testing. Less busy work and stress for the kids. No Math Computer Testing. More instructions on using "features" if kids are forced to take online tests. Less reliance on Computers daily, as they interfere with sleep. Computer organization programs and grading systems aren't that great. Less Tech, more old fashion, as Tech is interfering with learning and tests.						x	x							x			x												
transformative inclusive immersion cores traveling through awesome option programs.				x															x										
Treat teachers with more respect. Treat students with more respect. Care!!								x					x		x														
True excellence, which includes rigor and giving Ds and Fs if warranted. Students have graduated from Arlington who couldn't handle NOVA because their teachers were pushed to give them grades they didn't deserve. No one should honestly believe that there is a 100% graduation rate unless there is grade inflation going on.						x															x								
truly individualized learning - special needs, gifted, ELL, every child																			x			x	x						
Trustworthiness , development of kids strengths, career orientation													x																
A safe place with highly qualified staff to provide high level instruction to students. Access to a better and more advanced education for all children. Facilities suitable for students both indoor and outdoor.	transl ated					x						x		x												x		x	

