

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 30, 2017

TO: School Board

VIA: Patrick K. Murphy

FROM: Lisa Stengle

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the potential impact on enrollment at Science Focus, now that families will need to lottery into Key Immersion?
2. What other concerns need to be considered during implementation?

RESPONSE:

The current draft of Policy 25-2.2, Options and Transfer impacts Science Focus by:

- Making Key Immersion an option program. Key will no longer share an attendance zone with Science Focus.
- Removing the Jamestown, Key, Science Focus and Taylor Team which currently gives admission preference among the four schools.

Staff is beginning to examine the potential impact of the policy change on schools and programs. This memo addresses the impact on capacity by changing the Key/Science Focus attendance zone to Science Focus only, grandfathering and the boundary for Science Focus. More analysis will be done over the summer once the policy and grandfathering information is clear.

Based on what is known today, Science Focus may need one to two additional classrooms beginning in 2018-19. APS has a number of tools available to address the growth, and the fall annual update will recommend an approach that may include one or more of the following:

- Boundary changes, as part of the 2017-18 elementary boundary change process.
- Moving programs: for example, the VPI preschool class could be moved to another school or program that has space, opening up a classroom at Science Focus.
- Exploring ways to add physical capacity to Science Focus within financial constraints.

Question #1. Changing the Key/Science Focus attendance zone to the Science Focus attendance zone

Using projected enrollment, APS provides three scenarios to estimate the range of the potential impact on enrollment at Science Focus. Based on the number of students projected in the Key/Science Focus attendance zone, **Science Focus will need 1 to 2 additional classrooms when the policy goes into effect for 2018-19. Details about this estimate are described in the scenarios that follow.**

Scenario 1 – High Estimate

This high estimate is based on the following:

- The Key/Science Focus attendance zone is changed to the Science Focus attendance zone for 2018-19 as the policy is implemented.
- All kindergarten students in the Science Focus attendance zone attend Science Focus, and none of the students transfer to other APS schools or programs.
 - Note: This also means there are no transfers from the Science Focus attendance zone to Key, recognizing that in 2018-19, Key will be redefined as an option school.
- Requires 2 additional classrooms above the classrooms in place for 2016-17.

Scenario - High Estimate

Year	Science Focus	Enrollment by Grade						Classrooms	
		K	1	2	3	4	5	No. Need ed	No. in 2016-17 (includes 6 relocatables)
Fall 2017	Enrollment	104	85	124	120	113	109		
Current Policy	# Classrooms	5	4	5	5	5	5	29	29
Fall 2018	Enrollment	149	104	85	124	120	113		
Revised Policy	# Classrooms	7	5	4	5	5	5	31	29
Fall 2019	Enrollment	149	149	104	85	124	120		
Revised Policy	# Classrooms	7	7	5	4	5	5	33	29
Fall 2020	Enrollment	149	149	149	104	85	124		
Revised Policy	# Classrooms	7	7	7	5	4	5	35	29

Notes: 3 year average of resident KG students in the Key/ASF boundary is 149 students (2014-16). New classes are highlighted as they move through grades across school years. The number of classrooms needed are based on planning factor allocations for: kindergarten and grade 1 = 24 students; grades 2 and 3 = 26 students; and grades 4 and 5 = 27 students.

Source: www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2016_17-class-size-report-2.pdf

Scenario 2 – Mid-Range Estimate

This mid-range estimate is based on the following:

- The Key/Science Focus attendance zone is changed to the Science Focus attendance zone for 2018-19 as the policy is implemented.
- Maintains the current 8.1% transfer rate for kindergarten students in the Science Focus attendance zone attending other APS option schools or programs.
 - Average transfer rate for kindergarten students from 2014 (7.6%), 2015(8.2%) through 2016 (8.4%). Jamestown and Taylor are part of the average transfer rate.
 - Key is not part of this transfer rate, because Key and Science Focus currently share a boundary.
- Requires 1 additional classroom above the classrooms in place for 2016-17.

Disclaimer: This document is a working draft and is provided for information and discussion only. The information contained herein is subject to change.

Scenario - Mid-Range Estimate

Year	Science Focus	Enrollment by Grade						Classrooms	
		K	1	2	3	4	5	No. Needed	No. in 2016-17 (includes 6 relocatables)
Fall 2017	Enrollment	104	85	124	120	113	109		
Current Policy	# Classrooms	5	4	5	5	5	5	29	29
Fall 2018	Enrollment	137	104	85	124	120	113		
Revised Policy	# Classrooms	6	5	4	5	5	5	30	29
Fall 2019	Enrollment	137	137	104	85	124	120		
Revised Policy	# Classrooms	6	6	5	4	5	5	31	29
Fall 2020	Enrollment	137	137	137	104	85	124		
Revised Policy	# Classrooms	6	6	6	5	4	5	32	29

Notes: 3 year average of resident KG students in the Key/ASF boundary is 149 students (2014-16). New classes are highlighted as they move through grades across school years. The number of classrooms needed are based on planning factor allocations for: kindergarten and grade 1 = 24 students; grades 2 and 3 = 26 students; and grades 4 and 5 = 27 students.

Source: www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2016_17-class-size-report-2.pdf

Scenario 3 – Low Estimate

This low estimate is based on the following:

- The Key/Science Focus attendance zone is changed to the Science Focus attendance zone for 2018-19 as the policy is implemented.
- The average 3-year transfer rate for kindergarten students in the Key/Science Focus attendance zone attending other APS option schools or programs increases from 8.1% to 12%. The increase is based on the addition of Science Focus' proportion of the lottery for Key Immersion.

Note: On the current APS Transfer Report, Key is not factored in as part of the current Science Focus transfer rate, because Key and Science Focus share boundaries. As a result, students who choose Key are not counted as "transfers" since they two schools share the same boundary at this time.

- Requires 1 additional classroom above the classrooms in place for 2016-17.

Scenario - Low Estimate

Year	Science Focus	Enrollment by Grade						Classrooms	
		K	1	2	3	4	5	No. Needed	No. in 2016-17 (includes 6 relocatables)
Fall 2017	Enrollment	104	85	124	120	113	109		
Current Policy	# Classrooms	5	4	5	5	5	5	29	29
Fall 2018	Enrollment	131	104	85	124	120	113		
Revised Policy	# Classrooms	6	5	4	5	5	5	30	29
Fall 2019	Enrollment	131	131	104	85	124	120		
Revised Policy	# Classrooms	6	6	4	4	5	5	30	29
Fall 2020	Enrollment	131	131	131	104	85	124		
Revised Policy	# Classrooms	6	6	6	5	4	5	32	29

Notes: 3 year average of resident KG students in the Key/ASF boundary is 149 students (2014-16). New classes are highlighted as they move through grades across school years. The number of classrooms needed are based on planning factor allocations for: kindergarten and grade 1 = 24 students; grades 2 and 3 = 26 students; and grades 4 and 5 = 27 students.

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Question #2. Grandfathering Siblings

APS begins collecting information on students as they enroll for preschool or Kindergarten. APS will need to work with Science Focus to gather accurate counts of siblings who are eligible to enroll at Science Focus under the guidelines for accepting siblings of grandfathered students.

At this time, APS cannot estimate the impact of enrolling grandfathered siblings at Science Focus. Over the summer staff will work with the school administrators to capture this information based on 2017-18 enrollment.

The School Board could choose to do one or more of the following in advance of the fall update (see below) to provide some capacity flexibility at Science Focus:

- **Limit 2017-18 transfers to Science Focus by only accepting siblings of the students who were enrolled in the 2016-17 school year.**
- **Verify that current Science Focus students who have moved outside of the Team boundaries do not remain at Science Focus and are enrolled in the neighborhood school serving their new home address.**
- **Ensure that no students who live outside of the current Science Focus/Key boundary zone are enrolling in Science Focus for the first time, beginning with the 2017-18 school year.**

Issue #3. Arlington Science Focus sits in Taylor's Attendance Zone

The map below shows that Science Focus is located within the Taylor attendance zone and is located outside the attendance zone shared with Key. At the School Board meeting, a parent requested that APS implement a walk zone for students who live near neighborhood schools. Specifically, she was requesting that Planning Units 2317, 2319, 2320 all be rezoned for ASF.

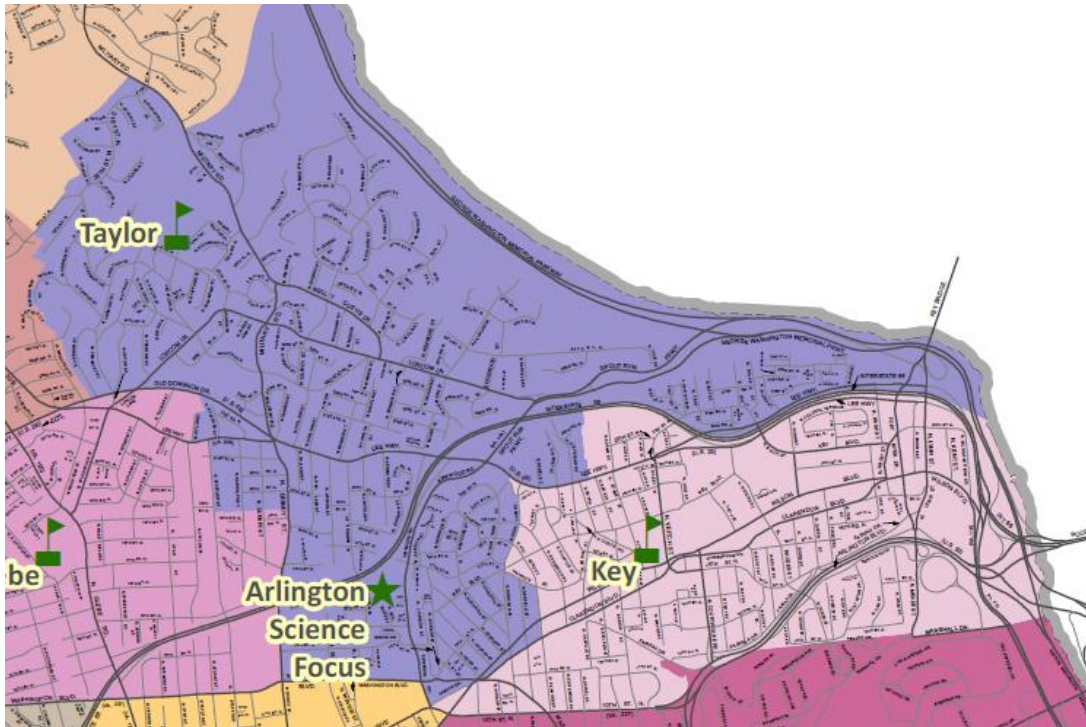
At this time, APS is not ready to expand the attendance zone for Planning Units around Science Focus. Over the summer, staff will analyze projections for all schools, and will look closely at the schools impacted by the policy change.

In the fall update to the School Board, staff will propose some steps for addressing concerns. Among the options that APS may consider:

- **Including some north Arlington elementary schools in the 2017-18 elementary boundary process.**
- **Moving programs – for example:**
 - **Moving the VPI preschool class to a school or program that has space to accommodate the program. This would open up an additional K-5 classroom for Science Focus.**
 - **Swapping the buildings that currently house Key and Science Focus today, moving Science Focus to be within its attendance zone, and moving Key (which will be an option school and will not need to be located in any specific area).**
- **Exploring ways to add capacity within financial constraints, that include:**
 - **Building out the “dirt rooms” at Science Focus.**
 - **Using the Buck property to increase capacity for Science Focus.**

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- Identifying in the annual update, targeted transfer opportunities to a nearby neighborhood school. The School Board can consider offering transportation incentives to encourage transfers that will help reduce enrollment where needed.



DRAFT

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