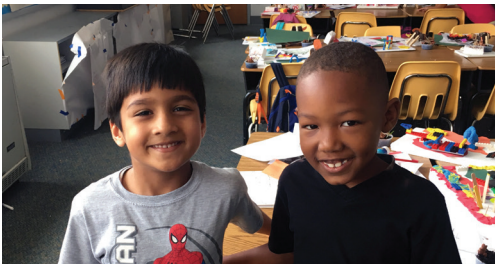




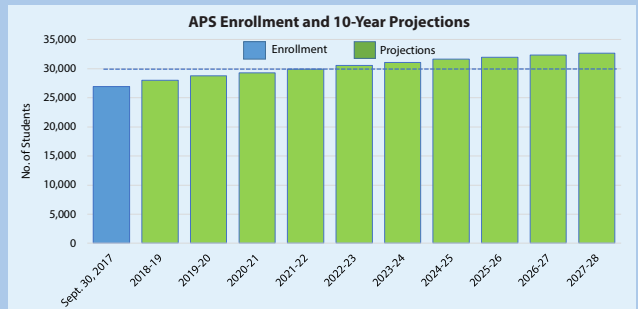
2018 School Bond



On Election Day, November 6th, Arlington voters will be asked whether to approve \$103 million in School Bonds to address growing capacity needs throughout Arlington County. More and more families are making Arlington their home. That means student enrollment continues to grow, so Arlington needs to plan and build more classroom space to help maintain the high quality of education that we provide.

How much is Arlington Public Schools (APS) student enrollment expected to grow?

On September 30, 2017, the official APS enrollment was 26,941 PreK–12 students. Over the next decade, Arlington’s PreK–12 student enrollment is estimated to grow by about 5,700 students, reaching a projected enrollment of over 32,600 students. That’s an increase of 21%.



How will the funding from the 2018 School Bond help to address Arlington’s growing capacity needs?

The 2018 bond funds will finance 725 seats in the new elementary school (Reed), renovations at the Career Center to allow the Arlington Tech Program to grow to 600 seats, and 600 high school seats at the former Education Center site. All three projects will be completed by fall 2021. The remaining 2018 CIP funds will be used to plan and design the additional seats at the Career Center site.

How will the 2018 School Bond funds be used?

The \$103.00 million will be used for the following projects:

- New Elementary School at the Reed Building \$44.25 million
- Career Center/Arlington Tech Internal Renovation (HS Seats) \$ 6.00 million
- Career Center Project, planning and design funds \$ 5.90 million
- Education Center Renovation (HS Seats) \$32.25 million
- Major Infrastructure Projects (MC/MM) \$14.60 million

How do bonds work?

Like a mortgage obtained by an individual or a family, bonds are long-term loans that spread the cost of major capital improvements over a number of years. Paying for long-term investments (such as school construction) with bonds spreads the cost among current and future taxpayers who will benefit from the schools.

The 2018 School Bond will fund projects in the next two years, but the CIP is a 10-year plan. What other projects are being planned for future bonds?

Projects in the FY 2019-28 CIP that will be funded with future school bonds include the following:

- Construction of the field and parking garage (opening 2023), the performing arts space and the addition of 800 high school seats at the Career Center site (opening 2025)
- A new elementary school with 725-750 seats (location TBD; opening 2029)
- Renovations/addition of 300 seats at a current middle school (location TBD; opening 2030)
- Continued funding of Major Construction and Minor Maintenance (MC/MM) projects to ensure that the infrastructure of existing facilities remains operational.

What APS projects have been completed with earlier bonds?

Previous bonds approved by the Arlington community have been instrumental in supporting renovations and expansions of existing school buildings as well as new construction, including the following most recent projects:

- Additions to and renovation of the new neighborhood middle school on Vacation Lane, current site of the H-B Woodlawn and Stratford Programs (opens Sept. 2019)
- Construction of a new facility at the Wilson site to house the H-B Woodlawn and Stratford Programs (opens Sept. 2019)
- Construction of the new Alice West Fleet Elementary School to replace Patrick Henry as a neighborhood school (opens Sept. 2019)
- Renovation and expansion of the Arlington Career Center/Arlington Tech (all phases complete by Sept. 2021)
- Renovations and expansion of Ashlawn Elementary (opened Sept. 2014)
- Construction of Discovery Elementary School (opened Sept. 2015)
- Renovation and expansion of McKinley Elementary (completed fall of 2016)
- Addition and renovation for Abingdon Elementary (completed Jan. 2018)
- Interior modifications to add capacity at all three APS comprehensive high schools

Some people have suggested that APS school construction costs are higher than those of other school districts. Is that true?

No. In fact, APS school construction costs are well within the regional average. A recent independent study by O'Connor Construction Mgmt., Inc., that will be released later this fall found that APS costs are, on average, comparable to projects in neighboring communities, including Fairfax, Loudoun, Alexandria City, DC, and Montgomery County. Recent APS high school construction projects have cost less than most of the other high school projects analyzed for the study, while the energy savings of recently completed APS projects surpass the national average.

APS has stringent controls in place to manage costs for each project and works collaboratively with the County and community to balance growing enrollment needs within budgetary constraints.

How is APS working with Arlington County government to address growing enrollment and school capacity needs?

APS maintains a 10% ceiling of its debt ratio. APS is committed to continuing to collaborate closely with Arlington County, to successfully address Arlington's growing student enrollment.

APS also has actively participated in the work of Arlington's Joint Facilities Advisory Committee to take a holistic approach to reviewing and addressing Arlington County's future needs, particularly the challenges due to our growing enrollment.

How are school bonds relevant to Arlington residents who do not have children enrolled in APS?

Investments that maintain our strong academic school system benefit everyone in Arlington in two major ways:

1. Community Use of APS Facilities

APS facilities are used more than 40,000 hours annually by the entire Arlington community, including: community membership in the aquatics facilities; evening and weekend programs run by Arlington County Parks and Recreation programs; holiday and summer camps when schools are not in session; and a wide range of community fairs, arts events and other special meetings.

2. Economic Impact

Funding for school operations and capital improvements affects Arlington County's future, regardless of whether a resident currently has children enrolled in APS. A 2013 study by economist Dr. Michael Walden examined the economic impact of Arlington's public schools on the community. Every \$1 million spent on the APS capital improvement plans was associated with creating 10.4 Arlington jobs. Further, improved APS student performance led to increased property values and tax revenues. APS graduating students were better prepared for college education and poised to be higher income earners. He concluded that the high academic performance of APS students reflects on the quality of life in the community and actually increases local property values.

Each recent APS graduating class will **REDUCE PUBLIC EXPENDITURES** related to crime, welfare and health care by up to **\$82 million** over their lifetimes.



Earnings for each recent APS graduating class are projected to add as much as **\$209 MILLION** IN LIFETIME INCOME.



Where can I find more information?

Information on the 2018 school bond and all of the projects planned in the 2019-28 APS Capital Improvement Plan is available online at: www.apsva.us/CIP/