

2017-18 APS ANNUAL REPORT

A Year of **Progress, Achievement and Excellence**





Dear Barbara, Reid, Nancy, Tannia and Monique,

This continues to be a rewarding time of year for all of us, the culmination of our keen focus on student achievement, employee engagement and planning this past school year. We are gathering preliminary results that show promising gains for our students, and I am continually impressed by what the Arlington Public Schools' team has accomplished.

Markedly, we have consistently maintained a low dropout rate that has resulted in a 100-percent on-time graduation rate for the class of 2018 by this summer's end. We continue to encourage students to stretch themselves by enrolling in academically rigorous course work, which has paid off for this graduating class, with 72 percent of them earning an Advanced Diploma and having secured scholarship offerings at a 12 percent increase over past years.

What we have achieved with the School Board is monumental and I am most grateful to see all that we have accomplished together. This year we took an interconnected approach that fell into four buckets: Establish a New K-12 Vision, Strengthen Employee Engagement and Communication, Expand Reach to Families and Continue Planning for Our Future.

ESTABLISH A NEW K-12 VISION

The reorganization of the Department of Teaching & Learning and creation of the Department of Planning & Evaluation allowed for greater integration and collaboration that serves our students and instructional team with a more unified approach. Much of their work is tied to the establishment of a new K-12 vision for APS in the new APS Strategic Plan. The implementation of central registration for transfers/options and PreK better served our families and encouraged greater participation in the options and choices available at APS. More families are now taking advantage of these opportunities that meet their children's needs and interests.

STRENGTHEN EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

We are clear that our employees are the lifeblood of the school division, in the classroom or in support roles, to ensure that every student is being provided with a positive experience at APS. With our cohesive approach to tackling communications challenges by developing the 2018-20 Superintendent and Executive Leadership Team Strategic Communications Plan, through employee focus groups, brown bag lunches and classroom visits, our team is poised to work more closely with staff and to continue to strengthen employee engagement and communication.

EXPAND REACH TO FAMILIES

Staying connected with our families and engaging our key stakeholders is also paramount to our success and our ability to reach our strategic goals. We rely on the input of our staff and community stakeholders to make sound decisions. The "Engage with APS" website has offered greater transparency and timely access to information, and served as a valuable tool to open lines of communication and provide consistent feedback. In addition, we are committed to our families feeling safe at school—a top priority for the school division. This has resulted in proactive responses to the political climate and current events, including establishment of the Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Immigrant & Refugee Concerns. We have also signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Arlington County Police Department to ensure that students and families continue to see the School Resource Officers (SROs) as integral members of the school team.

CONTINUE PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

We are proud of APS' reputation as a world-class school division that delivers an excellent academic program—being the number-one ranked division in Virginia has translated into burgeoning enrollment and the need for more instructional spaces. It has also led us to

reconsider our personalized learning approach to ensure that ALL students continue to receive an enriching experience that meets their individual needs and interests.

We are confident that the new 2018-24 Strategic Plan will guide us in accomplishing our strategic goals. This past year we employed an integrated and collaborative approach to the budget process which led to a revenue-neutral FY19 budget. The transition from the Education Center to the Syphax Education Center helps our team feel more connected and work together in many of the new team-oriented spaces. In completing the Abingdon Elementary expansion this past year and launching 14 capital planning projects, our planning efforts ensured that our school division continued to run smoothly while creating new spaces and places for learning without interruption. Our continued work with the County on ConnectArlington has also been pivotal to our technology infrastructure.

While this is a first review of our accomplishments this past school year, it provides a snapshot of the foundation we have built as we continue to face enrollment growth coupled with the budget pressures that will challenge us. Our recent retreat with County leadership is an important step to creatively and proactively seeking solutions to these challenges.

I am grateful for the privilege of leading this fast-growing and dynamic school division. With our new Strategic Plan, we have a solid roadmap for the next six years, as we work to connect, create and innovate to ensure that ALL students at APS have successful academic and life-development experiences that prepare them to be college- and career-ready.

Sincerely,



Patrick K. Murphy, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Arlington Public Schools 2017-18 ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS



Arlington Public Schools

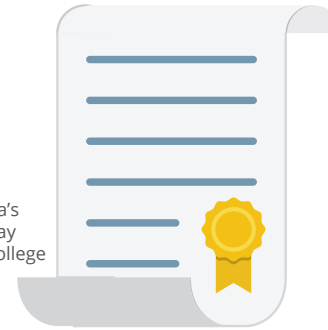
A YEAR OF PROGRESS, ACHIEVEMENT AND EXCELLENCE



1,459
GRADUATES
Class of 2018

66%
of APS grads
earned an Advanced
Studies Diploma*

* Advanced Studies Diploma is Virginia's most rigorous diploma & paves the way for admission to a two- or four-year college



**The
Challenge
Index
2018**

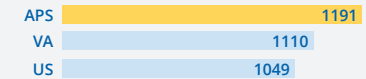
APS Ranked in
Top 3%
in Nation



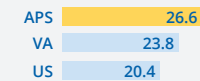
APS Ranked
#1 in VA
#86 in U.S.

APS STUDENTS SURPASS THEIR PEERS

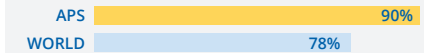
SAT Average Scores



ACT Average Scores



IB Pass Rates



95% Graduation Rate



for students in the three comprehensive high schools for all of their APS high school career



APS grads awarded
\$29M
in scholarships

78% completed one or more
College-Level Courses



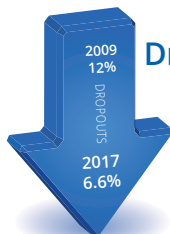
91% Plan to Attend
2- or 4-year College



76% of students take
Algebra I or
Geometry
by 8th grade



APS
Dropout Rate
Reduced by
45%
since 2009



**ALL SCHOOLS
FULLY ACCREDITED**

2017-18 APS DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

GROWING & RECRUITING STRONG SCHOOL LEADERS

Providing professional growth and learning opportunities for teachers interested in future leadership opportunities continues to be a focus for APS, building capacity through APS-sponsored professional development initiatives. Succession-planning initiatives such as the APS Aspiring Leaders Cohort allows candidates recommended by APS administrators, directors and supervisors opportunities to learn leadership skills and competencies. The fall 6-part series included 45 participants in each session, and the spring series provided training for 25 additional participants. Funds were also allocated for scholarships, conferences, workshops, special training opportunities, leadership training cohorts, and tuition reimbursement to provide opportunities for current and future division leaders. APS is committed to expanding the talent pool by creating opportunities to build a pipeline for Latino Leadership. In June, we met with staff to explore interest and future possibilities for Latino leadership in APS.

These programs are paying off. For the 2017-18 school year, several principal appointments were made to support and strengthen the excellent instructional, social and emotional learning that occurs in all APS schools every day. Most notably this year, two of our most seasoned principals transitioned to lead new schools: Judy Apostolico-Buck departed Ashlawn Elementary to take the helm at Barcroft Elementary School, and Bridget Loft, our 2017-18 Principal of the Year, moved from Swanson Middle to accept the role as the new principal for Yorktown High School. In addition, three former APS assistant principals were promoted to principalships: Bryan Boykin (Williamsburg Middle), Breonna McClain (Ashlawn

Elementary), and Renee Harber (Swanson Middle).

Because of APS' reputation for excellence in public education, we continue to attract strong leaders from outside of APS, as in the appointment of Eileen Delaney, who brought 30 years of experience to become the new principal at Carlin Springs Elementary.

PROACTIVE RESPONSES TO POLITICAL CLIMATE AND CURRENT EVENTS

This year, national events, civic discourse and political actions had a significant impact and raised concerns among many members of our APS community, including staff, students, families and community leaders. More than ever, community members looked to APS for affirmation of our division's mission, vision, core values and goals. Some of the communications sent to reassure and unite our community included:

- August 30: Responding in the aftermath of the violent "alt-right" rally in Charlottesville, APS rejected hate, racism, bigotry, and violence; urged families to be kind, calm and respectful; and encouraged hope.
- January 18: Responding to the #MeToo movement, uncertainty for DACA students, and the disheartening national dialogue about immigration, diversity and respect, APS reaffirmed its commitment to meeting the instructional, social and emotional needs of our diverse students and families.
- February 21, 27 and March 8: In the aftermath of the Parkland, Fla., school shooting, APS outlined our efforts to keep schools safe. Board members also urged state and federal legislators to more effectively regulate access to firearms and expand mental health support and resources, while school leaders recognized students' first-amendment rights to support the Parkland students and the "March for Our Lives" events.

CENTRAL REGISTRATION FOR TRANSFERS, OPTIONS AND PREK

In preparation to implement the Options and Transfers policy adopted by the School Board in June 2017, the application process for K-12 option programs, as well as registration for all APS early childhood programs, has been centralized at the APS Welcome Center. Families applying to APS Expeditionary Learning, Immersion, International Baccalaureate, Montessori, Traditional, and H-B Woodlawn programs are able to do so through a single online application process. This has led to an increase in families applying to all options programs, to streamlined and centralized school lotteries and waitlists, and has provided more complete and accurate records for students entering early childhood programs. The new Welcome Center incorporates the Language Services Resource Center, providing easy access to translation services for our families. The Center is also adjacent to the APS Parent Resource Center, Child Find, Food Services and Extended Day. Arlington County's School Health staff are also located in the same building, now offering more comprehensive support services for families in a single location.



Engage with APS!



160,400+ *apsva.us/engage*
pageviews
since launch



200+
feedback
forms
submitted



1200+ *Engage with APS*
emails received

More than
3,600 School Talks
went out in the
2017-18 school year



#APSiisAwesome has
become a recognized brand
on Twitter, with 830+ tweets
from 240+ accounts, and nearly
800,000 impressions

Peachjar e-flyers
eliminated
11.6 million
pieces of paper,
saved 1,385
trees and **\$1.3 million** in staff and printing



INCREASED ENGAGEMENT WITH PRINCIPALS

Organizational leadership is critical to the success of the APS instructional program. As part of the division's financial planning efforts, the Superintendent frequently met this year with representatives from the Arlington Education Association, Executive Leadership Team (ELT), and principal leadership to discuss funding needs and priorities. School leaders and other stakeholders were closely involved with division initiatives through regular communication and bi-weekly updates on the 2017-18 Action Plan. Budget discussions centered on identifying core services for our students, while focusing on building a sustainable budget that includes flexibility. Emergency planning included two tabletop training exercises this year, and increased review of procedures, protocols and action steps related to emergency preparedness. Anticipated enrollment growth provided opportunities for additional collaboration that has focused on boundary adjustments, as well as building operations, and other topics to enhance our instructional programs and strengthen support for staff, students and families.

CELEBRATING ARLINGTON'S DIVERSITY

Recognizing the importance of diversity in our community, this year, over 200 APS high school students representing a variety of cultures, races, languages, gender identities and sexual orientations participated in diversity conversations with board members, leadership teams, parent groups, student groups and PTA leaders. These opportunities allowed school leaders and the community to hear our students' "voice" and help APS identify future initiatives to support and celebrate diversity in APS.

In response to recent changes in national policies and actions related to immigration, this year the Superintendent formally established the new



APS-Community Working Group on Immigrant and Refugee Students. This team includes administrators, counselors and other APS representatives along with leaders from VOICE and The Dream Project. The focus of the working group is to address community or family concerns and collaborate with families while continuing to ensure that schools are a safe, supportive and nurturing place for all APS students.

APS hosted events and activities to highlight and engage students, families and staff during the annual Hispanic Heritage and Black History months, and this year we also recognized APS alumni throughout Women's History Month. Student "voice" opportunities occurred during Brown Bag Lunches, Pizza with the Superintendent, Girls Color of Leadership Conference (November), Latino Youth Leadership Conference (December) and Boys Color of Leadership (March).

EXPANSION OF ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNICATIONS

To foster more dialogue and engagement, the "Engage with APS" website was expanded to provide easy access to information about more than 10 current APS initiatives. The Engage site offers background information, data,

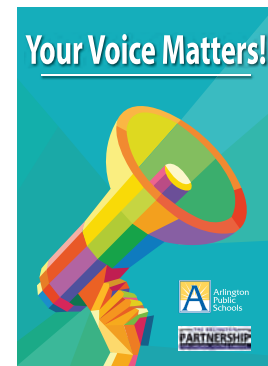
presentations, maps, FAQ, calendars of events, and other resources. The site allows stakeholders to share questions and ideas through an online form or via email at engage@apsva.us. Other engagement activities included:

- The APS Ambassador Program was created to build a network of parent volunteers who participate in meetings and receive updates to share with their school communities.
- APS School Talk provided weekly Engage updates on current initiatives and involvement opportunities.
- Semi-monthly emails to over 700 community leaders, civic associations and non-profits kept key leaders informed about APS initiatives and upcoming meetings or events.
- Face-to-Face communications were part of every initiative process, tailored to the subject and stakeholders. Countywide, small group and individual meetings, presentations to community groups, and Staff Open Office Hours provided an array of opportunities to share data, answer questions, and hear community ideas and suggestions.
- Engage 101 Workshops were launched to teach families how to access APS communications tools and strengthening connections with families who may not speak English. Topics included School Talk, Peachjar, the website translation feature, social media and other engagement tools.
- Partnerships expanded APS' reach through collaboration with the APS Bilingual Family Liaisons, Minority Achievement Coordinators, Latino parent groups, FACE Action Team members, and other established contacts with civic associations, faith-based organizations, advocacy groups, advisory councils, and community nonprofits.

NEW COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES

APS is committed to fostering open, transparent and continuous two-way communications through a variety of communication channels. This year, School and Community Relations (SCR) worked to deepen and expand school and department communications, and to diversify communications in response to the ever-evolving media landscape. New initiatives include:

- APS School Talk transitioned to a new platform to reduce costs, improve communications and visually brand messages by school or topic. News and alerts about school and APS developments, school closings, safety, and other topics are sent via email, voicemail or text, and users can set preferences for receiving messages.
- The *What's Up, APS?* podcast was launched to cover topics of interest for listeners and commuters. More than 20 episodes provided listeners an inside perspective on a wide range of topics, from wellness, mental health and new principals, to deliberations on the boundaries, CIP and Strategic Plan.
- APS website enhancements, like video closed captioning and podcast transcripts, and webmaster training made content more user friendly for all audiences, in response to an Office of Civil Rights request.



More than
5,700 students,
2,200 staff and
4,000 parents
provided input on the
Your Voice Matters
Survey

900+ volunteers
(not including parents)
support our
schools and students



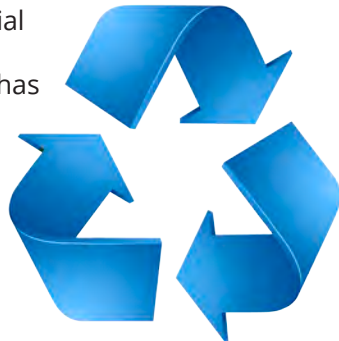
6,500+ viewers watched livestreamed
work sessions and community meetings

1,500+ families watched the APS
Information Nights on Facebook Live



300+ community responses
helped shape the APS 2018-24
Strategic Plan

Volume of material
recycled per APS
facility occupant has
risen 2.5%
in one
school year



Risk Management
New liability claims
against APS
fell 50%
from 14 in 2016-17 to
7 in 2017-18

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PARTICIPATION GROWS

Developing our students' lifelong, healthy eating habits is the goal of Food and Nutrition Services and a critical part of the APS goal to meet the needs of the whole child. The department offers students a variety of opportunities to experience fresh, locally-grown food. This year, the program focused on increasing food quality and preparation, and expanding staff training. News features included:

- A new bowl concept was offered in the high school serving lines, featuring international cuisine topped with local produce and house-made dressings.
- Serving lines were also painted and decorated with more modern flair.
- Weekly farm visits and taste tests continued throughout the year.
- A salad bar featuring local ingredients became a permanent feature at the Career Center.
- A partnership with the chef and culinary students at the Career Center provided daily protein dishes.

As a result of these and other changes, breakfast participation rose 1 percent and lunch participation increased 4 percent.



STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SAFETY

This year, a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed between APS and the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD). The MOU was based on the Virginia School Law Enforcement Partnership Model and developed with support from members of the CCPTA. It established a stronger framework for both schools and law enforcement officials to achieve shared goals. The MOU delineates the roles and responsibilities of APS staff and School Resource Officers (SROs), and focuses on promoting positive and supportive relationships with all stakeholders while creating and maintaining safe and secure school environments. APS and ACPD work together to respond to emergency or crisis situations in schools or the community, and also ensure that schools complete all required school safety audits. Additionally, a *Know Your Rights* brochure was created to guide middle and high school students on how to appropriately and positively engage with law enforcement, to promote positive and respectful interactions between students and law enforcement.

NEW TEACHING & LEARNING DEPARTMENT

Last August, the Department of Instruction merged with the Department of Student Services and Special Education to create the new Department of Teaching and Learning. This redesign supports our vision for instructional excellence for all APS students. The new Department of Teaching and Learning has been able to:

- Ensure a common vision, goals and leadership for all instructional leaders and staff;
- Provide consolidated social-emotional supports for all students;
- Develop a Professional Learning Framework for all licensed staff that supports inclusion, the needs of the whole child, engaging and

authentic learning experiences, curriculum, personalized learning, and the profile of a graduate;

- Create more seamless support and collaboration in instructional programs to provide greater support for teachers and staff;
- Construct an Intervention Protocol for English Language Arts providing guidance on evidence-based interventions for students; and
- Implement a centralized PreK-12 options and transfers application process.



processes, developing the new six-year APS Strategic Plan, revising the 10-year APS Capital Improvement Plan, and the annual revision of the APS student enrollment reports and projections to better inform APS planning and decisions.

CREATION OF NEW DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & EVALUATION

APS also created the new Department of Planning & Evaluation to provide leadership in key APS areas, including:

- Centralizing strategic planning functions;
- Facilitating major cross-departmental projects; and
- Increasing community engagement and support for APS initiatives.

This new department improves collaboration for long-term planning for APS and with Arlington County Government. The staff also focus on strengthening and standardizing how APS plans for change. The work centers on policy review, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, program evaluation, and research.

Collaborating with APS stakeholders on initiatives important to APS schools, students, staff and families is central to the department. Planning staff works closely with the Department of School & Community Relations and other staff to plan and deliver communications through a wide range of channels to inform community members on how to get involved and stay informed about the broad scope of APS planning initiatives. This year's work included facilitating the middle school boundary adjustment

CONSOLIDATION OF ALL CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS TO THE SYPHAX EDUCATION CENTER

This spring, all central office staff and the School Board relocated from the Education Center on N. Quincy Steet to the newly renovated space in the Syphax Education Center at Sequoia Plaza. This move reunited most Central Office departments and colleagues after more than two decades of working in multiple locations. With the exception of Facilities and Operations, staff are now working together in a single location. The new space has been designed specifically to encourage greater collaboration among staff. The central location also makes it a "one-stop" resource for school and community members. In addition, the Syphax location has significantly increased meeting room space for planning and professional development, as well as ample informal collaboration spaces. Most importantly, the Education Center will now be renovated and used as secondary instructional space to serve our growing student enrollment.



6,500+
Elementary and Middle School

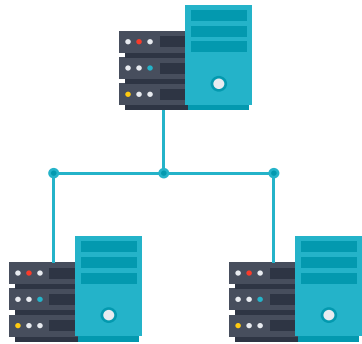
students participated in programs at the Outdoor Lab

5,187 students participated in APS summer school programs in the summer of 2017



Suspensions
down 32.5%

In-School Suspensions
down 45.3%
since last school year



Uptime for APS Network, Learning, and Productivity Infrastructure is **greater than 99%**



Information Services Department responded to over **43,000 service requests** with a customer satisfaction rate of **over 96%**

VRS Hybrid Voluntary Savings Plan
33.7% contribution rate
 highest district contribution rate in Virginia

FY 2019 BUDGET

Developing the FY 2019 budget started with a significant funding challenge – a deficit of \$25.9 million. Due to the County Board’s direction, APS was tasked with developing a revenue-neutral budget rather than one based on school and student needs. Thus, the School Board directed staff to develop the FY 2019 budget to include student growth funding; a staff compensation adjustment; continuing initiatives from the last two years if possible; and long-term strategies to reduce per-pupil spending.

As in the past, the APS budget reflects what we value most: the needs of our students. Because of funding challenges, the ELT worked more closely with administrators and principals to identify reductions while achieving the School Board’s budget direction. The team proposed changes in our instructional and service models; found one-time expenditures to fund with one-time reserves; and identified other budget reductions to reach a revenue-neutral budget. Despite the challenges, the APS FY 2019 budget received broad community support, and the County Board expressed appreciation for our commitment to develop a revenue-neutral budget in the face of economic realities challenging Arlington County.

CAPITAL PLANNING PROJECTS

As APS enrollment continues to grow, efforts proceed to add new schools, and classrooms in existing facilities. Capital projects include:

- **Abingdon Elementary** — the renovation and expansion was completed in January.
- **Alice West Fleet Elementary** — construction started for this new school opening in 2019.
- **Arlington Career Center** — construction begins this summer to create more instructional space for the growing Arlington Tech Program. The site also has been discussed by the Career Center Working Group and during this year’s CIP to address the need for future high school seats.



- **Education Center** — planning is underway to renovate the Education Center to add more high school seats by 2021.
- **Infrastructure Improvements** — includes replacing the Gunston mechanical system and replacing Randolph’s mechanical and electrical systems.
- **Interior Space Modifications** — by Fall 2017, we reconfigured schools to add student capacity at the Career Center, Gunston, and Wakefield, and preparations have been completed to add capacity at Yorktown during the summer of 2018.
- **Reed Building** — public engagement started and the design phase is underway to create a new neighborhood elementary school at Reed to be completed by September 2021.
- **Stratford/Vacation Lane Site** — construction has started to add APS’s sixth middle school on Vacation Lane (currently housing the H-B Woodlawn and Stratford programs). A committee also met to find ways to commemorate the site as the first Virginia public school to be racially integrated.
- **Wilson Site** — construction began on the new secondary facility that will house both H-B Woodlawn and Stratford by Fall 2019.



TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Transportation Services has collaborated with Arlington County Transportation on several initiatives:

- Expanded iRide eligibility for elementary students and a second ART 75 morning bus for Kenmore.
- Held safety conversations that expanded the scope of the County engineering team’s study in the Carlin Springs Road area to include a more comprehensive analysis for short-, medium- and long-term recommendations to improve safety along the corridor.

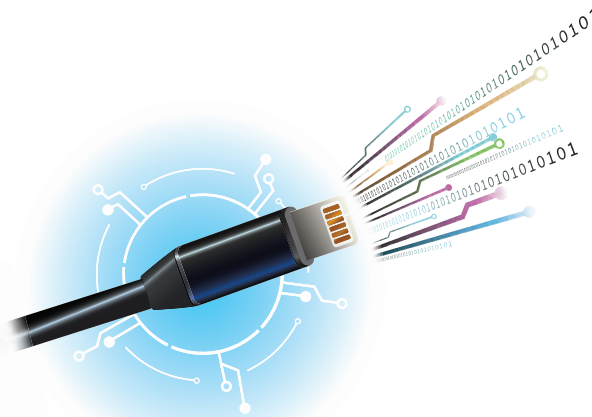
Our multimodal planning has involved:

- School and community conversations about walk zones and transportation during phase one of the elementary boundary process. The resulting information will help staff to develop an infrastructure needs plan to create a County implementation plan in the future.
- Outreach and collecting feedback on APS transportation policies.
- Connecting the Safe Routes to School program with Facilities and Operations for closer alignment of student safety efforts.

Finally, a pilot program for Summer School has been developed to use centralized bus stops for secondary students, resulting in more efficient routing and less student time on the bus.

CONNECTARLINGTON COLLABORATION COMPLETED

This spring APS completed the full transition from Comcast to the new ConnectArlington telecommunications network. All APS buildings are now connected and using ConnectArlington service. ConnectArlington is the Arlington County-owned and managed fiber-optic network that connects all County and schools facilities, and provides secure and cost-effective voice, video, and data services. In addition to high-speed Internet service, ConnectArlington also provides services for public safety communications and traffic signal control, and is available for community wifi access at Arlington libraries, community centers and County facilities, as well as in APS facilities when schools are not in session. As a fiber-optic network, ConnectArlington has virtually unlimited potential to deliver digital services, meeting today’s needs and laying a robust foundation for the future.



98% of APS teachers are classified as **highly qualified** by the state of Virginia

82% of APS teachers have earned a **Master's or Doctoral degree**, compared to 57% nationally



APS started the school year with a **98% teacher fill rate** and a **less than 10% attrition rate**

2017-18 SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

The 2017-18 school year was another year filled with amazing learning and accomplishments. The following is just a sample:

- **Young Scholar Innovation Academy** gave over 600 elementary students an opportunity to engage in rigorous and authentic project-based learning with a STEM Focus.
- **Drew Model School** students used project-based learning for a weather project as one of the school's STEAM activities, integrating science, technology, engineering, art and math.
- Sociology students from **Wakefield, W-L and Yorktown** high schools met in three cross-county conversations this year to discuss social identity and stereotypes.
- **Oakridge Elementary's** Mosaic Program, an exemplary project that celebrates diversity, and the **Department of Information Services' Cyber Sandbox**, which advances cybersecurity knowledge, were among the first recipients of the Inaugural Governor's Award for Excellence and Innovation in Education.
- **Yorktown junior Ryan Mark** was one of 16 global finalists to compete in the Google Science Fair, for creating a software program that can analyze images taken with and without the infrared smartphone camera setting.



- **Career and Technical Education** sponsored the first annual Engineering Night for K-12 students, supported by professional engineers, scientists, teachers and volunteers.
- **W-L's Katherine Mercado and Melissa Montes and Yorktown's Flor Caceres-Godoy** were selected to receive four-year, full-tuition Posse Foundation Scholarships, worth more than \$140,000 each.
- **Arlington Science Focus, Ashlawn, Barrett, Discovery, Glebe, Nottingham, Taylor, and Tuckahoe** students participated in the Food Bus Initiative to collect unused food left over from elementary school lunches, to distribute it to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC).
- Volunteers from the **League of Women Voters** and Inspire Virginia visited 38 senior government classes and registered 365 eligible students to vote.
- **Washington-Lee Geospatial Tools & Techniques** teacher **Ryan Miller** and his students had four projects added to the Library of Congress' permanent collection. The class was also invited as the only high school team to attend and present at the 2018 ESRI Federal User Conference for federal, state and local GIS professionals.
- During Bullying Prevention Month, journalism teacher **Jeff Schonfeld** and **Williamsburg administrators** and staff made a moving PSA, "Take a Minute, Change a Life," that focused on suicide prevention.
- A student TV production team from the **Career Center** won the sixth annual Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) student video challenge, for the fifth year in a row.
- **Kenmore's Almaz Abebe** was named one of the Virginia's 2017-18 Most Outstanding Crossing Guards.
- The **Arlington Science Focus** Lego robotics team, led by Investigation Station teacher



Stephanie Lin, competed in a First Lego League regional tournament and were awarded First Place in Research.

- The **Career Center's "Go Baby Go"** project adapted toy cars for young children with disabilities. Engineering students rebuilt each car's seating, steering, and safety; Auto students added customized paint, decals, lights, and sounds; and Electricity students added parent-controlled on/off switches and other features.
- **Harry Costner's Gunston** Video Journalism students' "Cyberbullying Ends" video took 2nd place for Best Youth Short Film in the AT&T Film Awards.
- **Kameron Harris**, a **Wakefield** student in the Career Center's Culinary Arts program, received a \$46,000 Full Scholarship to the Art Institute of Washington at this year's Metro Region Culinary Competition.
- Four female seniors in the **W-L Technology & Engineering** class placed first in "Drive Like a Girl," a real-world STEM design competition hosted by Audi and STEM For Her. Prizes included a \$1,500 donation to the W-L Technology and Engineering program.
- **Wakefield's Model UN** club attended the Model United Nations Conference at Johns Hopkins University with over 1,800 international students. **Andrea Rivera** received an Honorable Mention award for representing Uganda.
- **Washington-Lee Spanish teacher Wilson Ramirez** was named the 2018 Victoria D. de Sanchez Northern Virginia Hispanic Teacher of

the Year by the Hispanic Youth Foundation of Northern Virginia.

- **Glebe's Odyssey of the Mind (OEM) Team** of 4th graders, the "Brainstorming Smarties," attended the OEM World Finals and placed 7th in the technical engineering+creativity/artistic presentation category.
- **W-L senior Fariha Bablu** won a \$10,000 scholarship in this year's Junior Achievement essay competition.
- **Wakefield senior Aidan Unudelger** was one of only two students from Virginia to win the prestigious 2018 Horatio Alger National Scholarship of \$25,000.
- **Career Center Air Force Junior ROTC (AFJROTC) instructor Col. Mark Dierlam** was named 2018 Overall AFJROTC Outstanding Instructor of the Year by the Department of the Air Force Air University (AETC).
- 18 APS Students earned recognition in the **National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards**.
- Students **Sereeb Yusef (Gunston)** and **Ash Martinez Urquiza (Wakefield)** both received a National PTA Reflections Awards of Merit for Film Production.
- 23 APS students were selected to attend this year's **Summer Residential Governor's School** program for gifted high school students.
- **Oakridge parent Dana Dougherty** was named as one of the 2018 Governor's Volunteerism and Service Award recipients.
- Songwriter and **H-B Woodlawn junior Calista Garcia** was selected as one of six Artists in Residence for the 2019 Strathmore season.
- **Career Center TV Production** students took top honors in the local National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, 2017 Student Production Awards competition.
- **Discovery** was named a USDOE Green Ribbon School for their innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs,

improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education.

- **Discovery** received Zero Energy Certification from the International Living Future Institute, as the first verified Zero Energy (ZE) building certified.
- **APS Summer Literacy Academy for Middle School Boys of Color** earned the District Administration Magazine's Districts of Distinction Award.
- 15 APS schools received **2017 Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) Awards** based on student achievement and other performance indicators:
 - » Governor's Award for Educational Excellence went to **Arlington Traditional, Jamestown, McKinley, Nottingham, Taylor and Williamsburg**;
 - » Board of Education Excellence Awards recipients were **Arlington Science Focus, Ashlawn, Discovery and Glebe**; and
 - » Board of Education Distinguished Achievement Award recipients included **Hoffman-Boston, Swanson, Tuckahoe, Washington-Lee and Yorktown**.
- For the ninth consecutive year, APS received the **Meritorious Budget Award** for the FY18 budget from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO).
- **Wakefield** social studies teacher and 2017 APS Teacher of the Year **Michelle Cottrell-Williams** was named the 2018 Virginia Teacher of the Year.
- The Leadership Center for Excellence, formerly Leadership Arlington, named **Wilmer Castro (Career Center), Katherine Hale (Gunston) and Molly Haines (Hoffman-Boston)** to their 40 Under 40 List.

- **McKinley fifth grade teacher Julie Bolin** was awarded the Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year by the D.W. Steele Chapter of the Air Force Association. This program recognizes outstanding achievements in teaching science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).
- APS was recognized by the Virginia Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program for leading the region's participation in all four state-wide SRTS events (Walk and Bike to School Day events, Student Travel Tally, and Crossing Guard Appreciation).
- The Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) awarded APS the **2017 VSBA Green Schools Challenge Award** for implementation of practical actions and environmental policies, and **Platinum Certification** for the design of Discovery Elementary.
- **APS Department of School & Community Relations** received four publication/video awards from the Chesapeake Chapter of the National School Public Association.
- 43 APS teachers earned **National Board Certification** from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, and 14 teachers earned renewal of their certification.
- 21 APS teachers received Certificates of Study from the **Kennedy Center's Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA)** program.
- APS was designated as one of the **Best Communities for Music Education** by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation.
- Chef **Renee Randolph from Arlington Career Center** Culinary Arts program was recognized with the 2017-18 Hospitality Award by the Arlington Chamber of Commerce.

#APSiSAwesome

HOW APS AND ARLINGTON COUNTY WORK TOGETHER

Community members often ask if we work with Arlington County government to reduce cost and improve efficiencies. In fact, APS and Arlington County have built a long and productive relationship based on collaboration. APS and the County follow agreed-upon principles of revenue sharing, and the two organizations collaborate and share resources in other areas of operation. With common goals and a collaborative working relationship, we achieve cost efficiencies that result in better services for fewer dollars.

FACILITIES PLANNING

- The School Board and County Board's Joint Facilities Advisory Commission (JFAC) reviews the needs assessments and capital improvement plans and identifies partnership opportunities between APS and the County to maximize public benefit.
- APS and the County work together on specific school site expansion projects. Currently, the County and APS are collaborating on the Reed Elementary School project and the Career Center.
- In addition, the County and APS collaborate on a number of joint-use facilities, including Reed School/Westover Library, APS Career Center/Columbia Pike Library, Drew, Hoffman-Boston, Langston-Brown, Thomas Jefferson, Gunston, and swimming pools at the three APS high schools. The County's Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) is given priority in using school facilities (after APS programs) for community programs.
- APS and the County also collaborate on maintenance. DPR manages the design, installation and maintenance of synthetic turf fields at APS facilities, saving cost for APS and resulting in consistent quality of playing surfaces for APS students and the public. DPR

also manages a number of functions for APS, including mowing, irrigation and portable toilets. The County also provides a number of services to APS, including refuse collection and trail maintenance, which results in safer routes to schools.

TRANSPORTATION

- Arlington Transit's iRide program encourages students to take ART buses, providing discount fares through the iRide SmarTrip Card and transit information kiosks in schools.
- APS and County staff work together on Safe Routes to Schools, including applying jointly for federal grants.
- The annual Walk/Bike to School Day events promote walking and bicycling to school.
- The Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices (ACTC) advises the Joint Committee on Transportation Choices (JCTC), which was established by APS and the County to develop and implement programs that further transportation choice for students, families and staff.

YOUTH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

- APS and Arlington County created the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families to focus on improving the health, well-being and safety of Arlington's children, youth and families.
- In addition, APS staff members serve on a number of Arlington committees to support students and the community, including the Project PEACE Steering Committee, the joint Mental Health Committee, and the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness Steering Committee.
- The Child Care Initiative promotes the development of an inclusive, integrated child care system that effectively serves all families,

with a focus on vulnerable populations. A Leadership Roundtable comprised of 22 parents, child care providers and educators reports to the County Board and School Board on the progress of the CCI action plan and makes recommendations to the boards.

- APS participates in several County initiatives, including Arlington Addiction Recovery Initiative (AARI) and the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Bridges out of Poverty. As part of the DHS initiative, APS has worked to streamline school registration for low-income and immigrant families at the APS Welcome Center (which includes the Language Services Resource Center) so families arrive with the proper documentation, immunizations and physical exam forms.
- Project Family is a child abuse prevention program that enables parents and children to learn together. Classes are held weekly at two APS elementary schools. APS, the County and ChildFind collaborate to refer families to the program and appropriate school resources.
- Arlington's Department of Human Services (DHS) provides health services to APS, including school nurses and clinic aides,



who provide a full range of public health services for school-aged children and their families, including dental care and immunizations. DHS also provides school-based mental health therapists to assist students and their families. A DHS pediatrician provides consultation and physical exams for students who are uninsured.

- The County's DPR provides a number of after-school programs for teens and children to support the development of life skills and social competencies. High school students with disabilities are enrolled in Life Skills classes.
- Arlington Public Libraries conducts a number of book discussion programs in elementary, middle and high schools and collaborates with APS to encourage summer reading.

SAFETY

- The Arlington County Police Department provides School Resource Officers (SROs) and school crossing guards. The SROs focus on developing positive relationships between law enforcement and students, and to help students, parents and educators develop a better understanding of law enforcement's role in the community. They also work closely with school staff to promote public safety initiatives aimed at keeping our students safe in school, at home and in the community.

INTERNAL EFFICIENCIES

- ConnectArlington, the new fiber-optic, high-speed network that links APS and County buildings, is ensuring that the County, APS and the community will benefit as digital services demand continues to increase.
- Arlington County performs full service fleet management services for 132 school buses and 107 other APS support vehicles, which

includes vehicle maintenance and replacement plus procurement and financing based on a depreciation schedule.

- APS and the County have combined resources on risk management to better serve both organizations. This has allowed APS to hire a safety officer to provide routine inspections, such as fire, life-safety and playground inspections. This collaboration has also allowed both the County and APS to be better positioned to buy insurance. According to an APS risk management officer, APS and the County have pooled their property risk to lower each group's premiums by a significant amount.
- The APS Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides services to both APS and Arlington County employees and their families who may have problems which affect job performance. Counselors work one-on-one with employees referred to EAP.
- Likewise, contracts for health care and property insurance for both organizations are bid jointly, resulting in resource and cost savings. APS rides on the County's trash and recycling contracts managed by the Solid Waste Bureau (Dept. of Environmental Services).



APS At-A-Glance

APS by the Numbers

- Total FY18 Budget: \$613,554,404
- Average Teacher Salary: \$79,055
- PreK-12 Enrollment: 26,941
- Adult Education Enrollment: 5,000+
- Cost Per Pupil: \$19,340

Our Students

- APS' richly diverse students hail from 122 nations and speak 100 languages.
 - » White 46.9%
 - » Hispanic 28.0%
 - » Black/African American 10.0%
 - » Asian 9.1%
 - » Amer. Indian/Alaskan Nat. 0.3%
 - » Nat. Hawaiian/Pac. Islander 0.1%
 - » Multiple 5.7%
- Students w/Subsidized Meals: 30.12 %

About Arlington, Virginia

- APS is 13th largest among Virginia's 132 school divisions.
- Area: 26 Square Miles
- Population: 222,800
- Median Household Income: \$110,700
- Per Capita Income: \$89,300
- Residents' Highest Level of Education
 - » Bachelor Degrees 72.9%
 - » Graduate Degrees 38.4%



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