

2020 School Bond



On Election Day, November 3, Arlington voters will be asked whether to approve \$52.65 million in School Bonds to maintain and improve school infrastructure and address continued enrollment growth in Arlington County. Our school facilities are maintained and updated to meet the changing needs of students, maintain our high quality of education, and protect our community's investment in our school infrastructure.

How will the funding from the 2020 School Bond help to address the needs of Arlington schools?

The 2020 bond funds will finance planning and design funds to meet capacity needs projected for the next 10 years at all school levels, major infrastructure projects such as HVAC replacement for schools, building refreshes and kitchen renovations at three elementary schools—Arlington Traditional, Key, and McKinley—and entrance renovations for security at Taylor Elementary School, Wakefield High School, and the Gunston, Jefferson and Williamsburg Middle Schools.

How will the 2020 School Bond funds be used?

The \$52.65 million will be used for the following projects:

- Planning and design to meet 10-year projected capacity needs at all school levels \$24.3 million*
- Major infrastructure projects such as HVAC replacement for schools \$15.4 million*
- Building refreshes and kitchen renovations at ATS, Key and McKinley \$7.65 million
- Security entrances at Taylor, Gunston, Jefferson, Williamsburg, Wakefield \$5.30 million

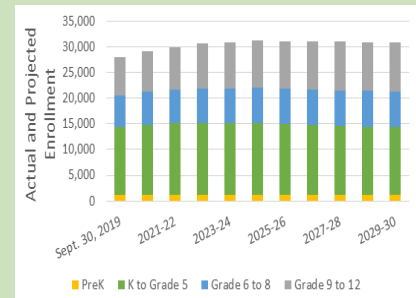
**Additional funds for these projects will be included in future Capital Improvement Plans*

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.

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

On September 30, 2019, the official Arlington Public Schools (APS) enrollment was 28,020 PreK-12 students. Arlington's PreK-12 student enrollment is estimated to grow by just over 2,800 students by 2029-30, reaching a projected enrollment of over 30,900 students. That's an increase of nearly 10%. Enrollment in September 2020 has decreased from the 2019-20 school year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; however, this year is expected to be unusual and not reflective of trends for future enrollment.



The 2020 School Bond will fund projects over the next two years. What other projects are being planned for future bonds?

The 2020 School Bond will fund projects included in the Arlington School Board's Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). APS will develop a Multi-Year CIP for FY 2022 that continues to plan for enrollment growth and will complete an instruction-driven staff analysis to inform the next CIP that will provide capital and/or non-capital solutions to do the following:

- Meet the projected capacity needs at all school levels based on Fall 2020 projections
- Potentially include additions, modifications, program moves, leased space, new construction, and/or other solutions that fit within the projected 10-year CIP funding
- Consider creative solutions for sizes, grade levels, and locations of all option schools, to include consideration of Pre-K thru 8 and/or Grades 6-12 models of instruction for some schools
- Provide facilities to accommodate the full-time high school students on the Career Center campus
- Examine creative solutions for more efficient use of the Career Center campus
- Consider creative solutions to meet accessibility and short-term parking needs at The Heights



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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:

- New 725-seat elementary school at the Reed Building (opens Fall 2021)
- Additional capacity for 250 more students at Arlington Tech at the Career Center (available Fall 2021)
- Addition of 600 high school seats at the Education Center (opening Jan. 2022)
- Transportation Staff Facility renovation (opening March 2021)
- Additions/renovation of Dorothy Hamm Middle School (opened Sept. 2019; addition opens Sept. 2020)
- Construction of The Heights to house the H-B Woodlawn and Shriver Programs (opened Sept. 2019)
- Construction of Alice W. Fleet Elementary School (opened Sept. 2019)
- Addition and renovation for Abingdon Elementary (completed Jan. 2018)
- Interior modifications to add capacity at all three APS comprehensive high schools (completed)

How has the APS capital improvement planning process been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?

This year, APS departed from the traditional 10-year CIP in order to align with the Arlington County FY 2021 CIP which is focused on the short-term due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This approach allows APS to use limited resources effectively to maintain and improve existing facilities, add capacity, and continue to plan for safe, healthy and supportive environments in which our students can learn and thrive. The 2020 School Bond funds will address immediate needs by providing best-practice security entrances to schools that do not yet have them, expanding kitchens to better serve more students, and upgrading older HVAC systems for healthier school environments. APS will develop a Multi-Year FY 2022 CIP, to be adopted by the School Board in June 2021, which will continue to plan for projected enrollment growth in future years.

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

APS is committed to continuing to collaborate closely with Arlington County, which has a triple, triple A bond rating, to successfully address Arlington's growing student enrollment. APS adheres to all debt-related policies enacted by Arlington County. APS works closely with 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 continued growth in enrollment.

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

While not all residents have children currently enrolled in our schools, those who don't have students today include families with APS graduates and families who plan to enroll future students in APS. Investments that maintain our strong school system benefit everyone in Arlington in two main ways:

1. Community Use of APS Facilities - APS facilities are used more than 58,000 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; 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 found that 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. More recently, large corporations such as Nestlé and Amazon indicated that the quality of the school system was a major factor in the decision to locate offices in Arlington.

Where can I find more information?

Information on the 2020 school bond and all of the projects planned in the FY 2021 APS Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is available online at www.apsva.us/CIP/.

How can I support the 2020 School Bond?

The School Bond will be on the November 3, 2020 election ballot. There are three ways to vote:

- Vote early: Select from five locations in Arlington starting September 18, 2020
- By mail: Request a ballot by October 23, 2020
- In person: At your polling place—open 6 a.m.-7 p.m. on Nov. 3, 2020

To find locations or request a mail-in ballot, visit: vote.arlingtonva.us