

Dear Claremont/Key Immersion School Community—

We would like to share some updates with you on our Dual Language Immersion program.

Over the past two decades, APS has experienced a significant increase in enrollment and has managed enrollment in a variety of ways, including the construction of new schools, additions, renovations, program moves, and boundary adjustments. Another way that APS has helped manage enrollment at neighborhood schools is by increasing the number of students who attend option schools/programs.

The construction of two new neighborhood elementary schools—Alice W. Fleet and the new school at the Reed site—has provided the additional capacity our county needed at the elementary school level. Boundary adjustments made in 2018 and 2020 have helped bring enrollment at several neighborhood schools to more manageable levels. This now allows staff to ensure that enrollment at option schools is adjusted to bring enrollment to more manageable levels at schools that are over-capacity and add additional seats at schools with capacity.

Before 2013, APS had four kindergarten classes at both Key and Claremont; since then, each school has had six kindergarten classes to help with enrollment growth. While this increase helped with managing enrollment across APS and expanded access to the Dual Language Immersion program, this has also placed each school over capacity, requiring the use of relocatable classrooms and straining common area spaces in each school.

After reviewing Key and Claremont building capacity and projected enrollment, APS will now return to offering four Kindergarten classes at each school for 2021-22. APS will continue to offer two PreK VPI classes at each school for 2021-22. The number of Kindergarten classes at option schools will continue to be reviewed annually.

APS remains committed to the Dual Language Immersion program and has recently launched a visioning process with a comprehensive review that will conclude with recommendations to further strengthen the program. We will provide updates and opportunities for input throughout the process before presenting final recommendations in early 2022.

For more information, visit the [APS Engage Immersion Visioning web page](#). Please send any questions and comments you have to engage@apsva.us.