

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 24, 2023

TO: JOINT CITY COUNCIL-SCHOOL BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE

FROM: KARL W. MORITZ, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ZONING
ERIKA GULICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES, ACPS

SUBJECT: ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

The purpose of this memo is to provide the Joint City Council-School Board Subcommittee an update on the annual enrollment projections. In Fall 2023, the enrollment projections for school year 23-24 are finalized based on the official September 30, 2023, enrollment numbers. That projection is based on two factors, the kindergarten capture and the cohort survival rate. Pre-COVID pandemic, ACPS was experiencing peak growth. Since 2021, the projection indicates that growth is slowing. Table 1 shows the baseline projection for FY24-33. This projection shows ACPS peaking in FY25 and slowly declining over the next 10 years. This decline can be explained by slowing and declining birth rates and a low kindergarten capture rate, as well as negative cohort survival rates that have not yet recovered from the decline in enrollment caused by the COVID pandemic.

Table 1: Baseline Enrollment Projection

School Level	Grade	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY2024 Projection	FY2025 Projection	FY2026 Projection	FY 2027 Projection	FY 2028 Projection	FY 2029 Projection	FY 2030 Projection	FY 2031 Projection	FY 2032 Projection	FY 2033 Projection
ES	PK	311	273	287	306	323	323	323	323	323	323	323	323	323	287
	K	1,448	1,266	1,337	1,330	1,343	1,266	1,293	1,188	1,215	1,251	1,288	1,327	1,365	1,408
	1	1,488	1,383	1,282	1,415	1,350	1,354	1,278	1,304	1,200	1,229	1,266	1,268	1,305	1,376
	2	1,368	1,358	1,266	1,249	1,355	1,292	1,293	1,221	1,246	1,147	1,173	1,173	1,210	1,246
	3	1,335	1,267	1,287	1,268	1,220	1,320	1,255	1,258	1,187	1,213	1,116	1,116	1,141	1,176
	4	1,320	1,258	1,196	1,274	1,253	1,198	1,300	1,235	1,236	1,166	1,192	1,192	1,098	1,122
ES Total		8,495	8,026	7,832	7,998	8,075	7,956	7,894	7,781	7,596	7,519	7,478	7,519	7,588	7,670
MS	6	1,156	1,127	1,103	1,096	1,076	1,185	1,129	1,091	1,084	1,015	1,030	974	968	991
	7	1,215	1,120	1,076	1,057	1,061	1,041	1,144	1,092	1,055	1,046	981	991	938	933
	8	1,078	1,164	1,085	1,075	1,028	1,033	1,012	1,108	1,061	1,024	1,013	967	960	909
MS Total		3,449	3,411	3,264	3,228	3,165	3,259	3,285	3,291	3,200	3,085	3,024	2,932	2,866	2,833
HS	9	1,269	1,136	1,342	1,226	1,256	1,227	1,233	1,208	1,323	1,267	1,223	1,223	1,155	1,146
	10	973	1,127	937	1,285	1,091	1,118	1,092	1,098	1,075	1,178	1,128	1,089	1,089	1,028
	11	919	906	1,030	883	1,194	1,014	1,039	1,015	1,020	999	1,095	1,048	1,012	1,012
	12	957	982	1,069	1,112	980	1,325	1,125	1,153	1,126	1,132	1,108	1,215	1,163	1,123
HS Total		4,118	4,151	4,378	4,506	4,521	4,684	4,489	4,474	4,544	4,576	4,554	4,575	4,419	4,309
Grand Total		16,062	15,588	15,474	15,732	15,761	15,899	15,668	15,546	15,340	15,180	15,056	15,026	14,873	14,812
% Change		2.07%	-2.95%	-0.73%	1.67%	0.18%	0.88%	-1.45%	-0.78%	-1.33%	-1.04%	-0.82%	-0.20%	-1.02%	-0.41%

Since the Fall, ACPS and the City have been working together to better understand the impacts of development on the enrollment of ACPS. Staff will continue to work together through monthly updates to development, student generation rates, and continued joint efforts. This spring, City and ACPS staff added student generation from proposed/approved developments to the baseline projection from the fall.

The City of Alexandria has committed to increasing the production of market rate and affordable units over the next 10 years. The pipeline of proposed/approved residential development projects is one measure of success toward achieving this goal. As these projects are delivered, they will increase enrollment at ACPS. In Table 2, student generation was added directly into the enrollment projection model. In cases where there is redevelopment occurring, existing students were netted out of overall student generation. Significant investment in affordable housing and an increase in housing units throughout the city will increase ACPS enrollment; affordable housing has higher student generation rates than market rate development.

Table 2: Enrollment Projection with Development

School Level	Grade	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY2024 Projection	FY2025 Projection	FY2026 Projection	FY 2027 Projection	FY 2028 Projection	FY 2029 Projection	FY 2030 Projection	FY 2031 Projection	FY 2032 Projection	FY 2033 Projection
ES	PK	311	273	287	306	355	323	323	323	323	323	323	323	323	287
	K	1,448	1,266	1,337	1,330	1,343	1,289	1,310	1,192	1,271	1,318	1,311	1,327	1,365	1,408
	1	1,488	1,383	1,282	1,415	1,350	1,377	1,318	1,325	1,268	1,344	1,357	1,336	1,327	1,376
	2	1,368	1,358	1,266	1,249	1,355	1,315	1,330	1,264	1,329	1,262	1,309	1,286	1,295	1,265
	3	1,335	1,267	1,287	1,268	1,220	1,341	1,293	1,298	1,301	1,357	1,251	1,228	1,274	1,260
	4	1,320	1,258	1,196	1,274	1,253	1,217	1,335	1,272	1,343	1,342	1,356	1,333	1,232	1,254
	5	1,225	1,221	1,177	1,156	1,231	1,222	1,184	1,285	1,298	1,356	1,313	1,291	1,306	1,186
ES Total		8,495	8,026	7,832	7,998	8,107	8,084	8,093	7,959	8,133	8,302	8,220	8,124	8,122	8,036
MS	6	1,156	1,127	1,103	1,096	1,076	1,199	1,144	1,123	1,113	1,150	1,184	1,135	1,140	1,154
	7	1,215	1,120	1,076	1,057	1,061	1,055	1,157	1,113	1,098	1,116	1,123	1,129	1,096	1,095
	8	1,078	1,164	1,085	1,075	1,028	1,048	1,026	1,128	1,092	1,110	1,097	1,082	1,100	1,059
MS Total		3,449	3,411	3,264	3,228	3,165	3,302	3,327	3,364	3,303	3,376	3,404	3,346	3,336	3,308
HS	9	1,269	1,136	1,342	1,226	1,256	1,227	1,251	1,225	1,347	1,304	1,325	1,325	1,292	1,313
	10	973	1,127	937	1,285	1,091	1,129	1,100	1,120	1,117	1,199	1,161	1,179	1,179	1,150
	11	919	906	1,030	883	1,194	1,025	1,057	1,027	1,068	1,038	1,114	1,079	1,095	1,095
	12	957	982	1,069	1,112	980	1,335	1,145	1,178	1,166	1,185	1,152	1,236	1,197	1,215
HS Total		4,118	4,151	4,378	4,506	4,521	4,716	4,553	4,550	4,698	4,726	4,752	4,819	4,763	4,773
Grand Total		16,062	15,588	15,474	15,732	15,793	16,102	15,973	15,873	16,134	16,404	16,376	16,289	16,221	16,117
% Change		2.07%	-2.95%	-0.73%	1.67%	0.39%	1.96%	-0.80%	-0.63%	1.64%	1.67%	-0.17%	-0.53%	-0.42%	-0.64%

This method of projection shows ACPS peaking in FY29 and returning to pre-pandemic levels of enrollment. This method includes development captured as they are expected to be developed and built out. As developments and expected timelines change, the City and ACPS will work together to adjust this projection.