

*On Election Day, November 6, Arlington voters will be asked to approve \$42.6 million in school bonds to address growing capacity needs. Here are answers to some Frequently Asked Questions about the 2012 School Bond.*

## How will the 2012 school bonds be used?

The 2012 school bonds will be used to add seats for elementary capacity and to make needed improvements to school system infrastructure. Total bond funding of \$42.6 million will be divided among:

- Design funds for additions at Arlington Traditional School (\$1.6 million) and McKinley Elementary (\$1.6 million)
- Design funds for a new elementary school at the Carlin Springs/Kenmore site (\$4.5 million)
- Construction funds for a new elementary school at the Williamsburg site (\$28.1 million)
- HVAC and roofing improvements at schools throughout the county (\$6.8 million)

In addition to bond funding, the design & construction of an addition at Ashlawn Elementary (\$14.9 million) and the design and partial construction of the new elementary school at Williamsburg (\$4.0 million) will be paid for from current reserves.



## Why is APS building so much new space for elementary students?

APS' greatest immediate need for space is at the elementary level. In the past five years, the number of APS elementary students has grown by 28% resulting in overcrowding in two-thirds of our elementary schools. Projections show this trend continuing for the coming years.

## How were the five projects and locations for adding elementary space selected?

The projects and locations were selected through a yearlong planning process that engaged the School Board, community stakeholders and staff in prioritized decision-making based on the APS 2011-2017 Strategic Plan. Since the majority of APS' elementary schools are overcrowded and the bulk of student enrollment growth is at the elementary level, the 2013-22 CIP process focused on elementary schools.

## When will these projects be completed and ready for students?

- Ashlawn Addition – Fall 2014
- New Elementary School at Williamsburg site – Fall 2015
- Arlington Traditional School Addition – Fall 2016
- McKinley Addition – Fall 2016
- New Elementary School at Carlin Springs/Kenmore site – Fall 2017

## Secondary schools are also overcrowded. What are the plans to address crowding at middle schools and high schools?

The 2013 – 2022 CIP proposes construction at middle and high schools between 2017 and 2022. Specific middle and high school projects will be identified in the next CIP through a similar planning process to that used for the current CIP.

## Will school boundaries change? If so, how will those decisions be made? When will decisions go into effect? How can I learn more about boundary decisions?

Yes, school boundaries will change to accommodate new school programs and enrollment growth. However, no changes will be made for the 2012-13 school year. Boundary changes will be made by the School Board after a deliberative and engaged process involving parents and community members. Stay tuned — more information will be forthcoming this fall!

## How do bonds work?

Bonds are long-term loans that function much like the mortgage on a home. 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.

## Are other funds being used to pay for these projects?

Yes, by setting aside funds from operations, APS is able to use current funds to pay for the design and partial construction (\$14.9 million) of the new elementary school at the Williamsburg site. Year-end funds (\$14.9 million) are also being used to pay for the Ashlawn addition thereby reducing the bond required for the 2012 referendum.

## Aside from their use for instruction and school programs, are APS facilities available for community use?

Yes, school facilities are used extensively by the entire Arlington community. Use by community groups accounts for more than 40,000 hours per year. Additionally, school facilities are used extensively for many hours each day for Arlington County recreation programs. APS welcomes the community's use. Information about building use and forms to make a request are available online at [www.apsva.us](http://www.apsva.us) — click on "Community Resources."

## How was money from the previous bonds spent?

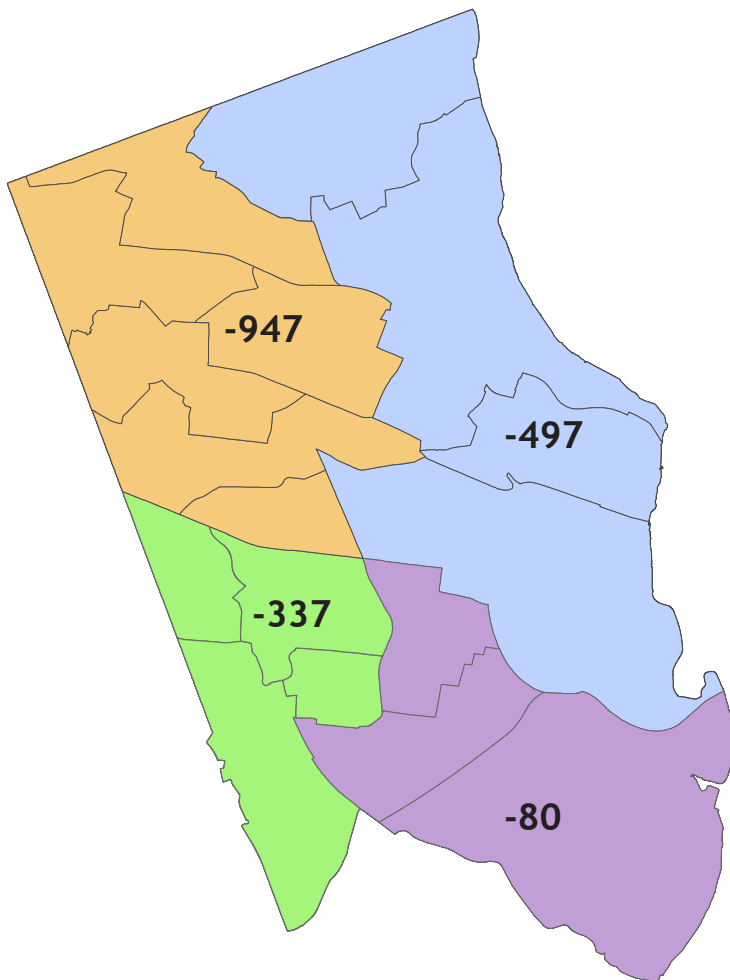
Bond funds have been used to renovate and rebuild 27 schools.

## Where can I find more information on the school bonds or the APS Capital Improvement Plan?

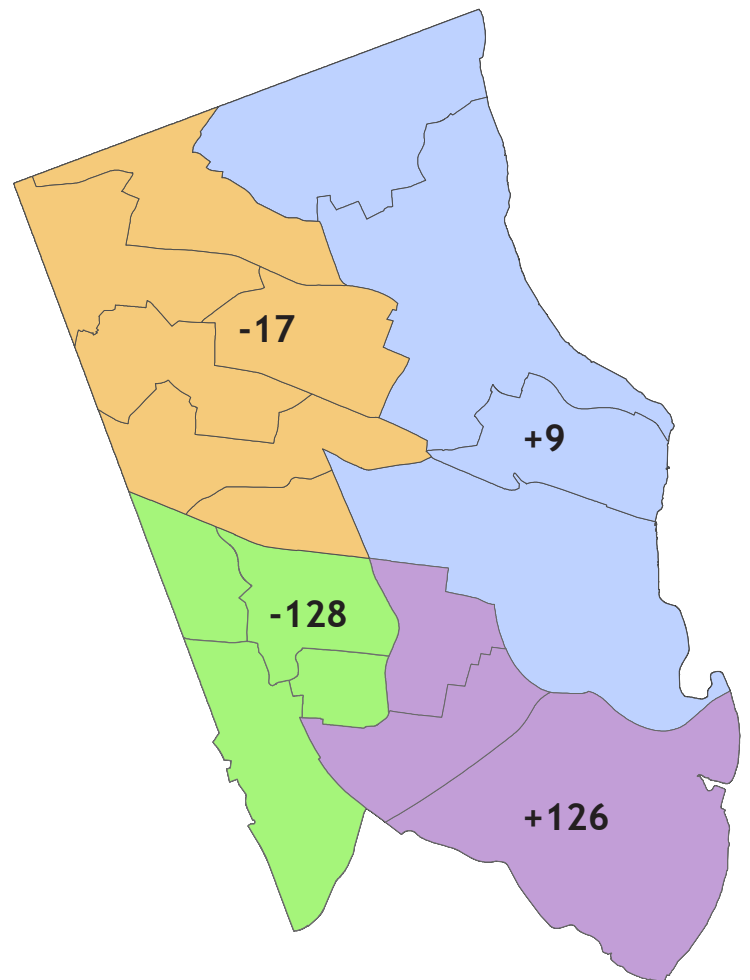
Information on the 2012 school bond or the APS Capital Improvement Plan is available online at [www.apsva.us/CIP](http://www.apsva.us/CIP).

## PROJECTED 2017 ELEMENTARY SEAT DEFICITS WITH AND WITHOUT EXPANSION PROJECTS

Projected 2017 elementary seat deficit with no additional seats



Projected 2017 elementary seat surplus/deficit with 1875 new seats



For information on school bonds or the Capital Improvement Plan, call 703-228-6125 or review the 2013-22 CIP on the APS Web site at [www.apsva.us/CIP](http://www.apsva.us/CIP).

To comment, e-mail [school.board@apsva.us](mailto:school.board@apsva.us)