

**Long-Range Educational Facilities Plan Work Group
Enrollment and Forecasting Committee Meeting Agenda
Monday - June 10, 2013
Nannie J. Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street**

This first meeting of the enrollment forecast and demographic committee should set out the goals and expectations for the committee.

Currently, staff focusing on enrollment forecasting has been considering (1) how to more precisely reflect the student generation of existing units and new construction (2) how Alexandria's residential unit mix is likely to change over time under the City's most recent 2040 development forecast, (3) how the age, household size, and household type distribution of population is likely to change over time under this forecast, (4) whether we are entering a period of significant change in people's choices that will change who chooses to live in Alexandria and send their children to school here compared to the relatively stable period from 1980 to 2010, and (5) how all of these changes may affect the number of children attending Alexandria City Public Schools by school and by grade over the period of the forecast.

The staff will brief the committee on these issues and areas of investigation, and will seek the committee's advice on best ways to proceed with further investigations.

To better understand Alexandria specific trends, staff is currently planning on researching the following items:

1. Refine student generation rates: Currently generation rates focus basic type, public housing vs. all other housing, and new units vs. all other units. These give us some insight into what to expect from newly created housing, but could become more informative by looking at other factors:

- Better characterizing generation rates from particularly high and low student-generating uses in existing and future development (senior housing, subsidized housing by unit type).
- Considering the effect of unit size by unit type on student generation.
- Considering the effect of age of structures and age since major rehabilitation on student generation as projects age beyond the 10 years after initial occupancy (since this forecast will extend more than 10 years into the future).
- Other factors?

2. Improve our understanding of correlation between births and kindergarten capture:

Currently we look at a citywide capture rate to understand how many children born in Alexandria are likely to end up in ACPS. Is there a more meaningful way to look at this information?

- Neighborhood
- Income
- Housing type
- Other

3. Incorporate family structure of public school students – Are there family characteristics that can be correlated with higher or lower rates of children in ACPS?

- Neighborhood?
- Income?
- Two-parent or single-parent households?
- Other

4. Incorporate long-term economic outlook –We assume that significant economic changes substantially contributed to the most recent enrollment spike. What economic indicators might help us understand such changes and anticipate similar changes in the future?

- Job Growth
- Unemployment
- Home prices and home sales
- Other

5. Incorporate neighborhood turnover - Understanding how our neighborhood might be changing might highlight areas prime for the influx of new families:

- Identifying clusters of older Alexandrians who might be expected to move during the forecast period and make family-appropriate housing more available for households with students
- Identifying neighborhoods with high mobility rates

Some of the questions above may have readily analyzable sources of data, others may not. In an effort to obtain additional insight, where specific data is not available, staff plans to employ a focus group strategy:

Below is a “brain-storming” list of potential groups to talk to and what to speak with them about. Are they the right groups? Are we asking the right questions? How can we get the right people to participate? How might we translate the answers to actionable data?

- Real estate agents: propensity for families to live in Alexandria – is it changing? Reputation of schools. Thoughts on migration out of Alexandria as economy improves? Changes in lending requirements (Do we need to talk to lenders?).
- Employers: reputation of schools; effect on ability to attract employees? View of business community responsibility/interest re: public schools.
- Private school operators: we share trends we are seeing; roundtable discussion of trends they are seeing. Willing to let us talk with Alexandria parents of private school children?
- Parents of pre-school-age children: plan to stay in Alexandria and send kids to private school?