

Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force

Reference Document: *Descriptions of Plans and Committees Relevant to City-Schools Facilities Planning and Funding*

Long Range Educational Facilities Plan

The 2015 *Long Range Educational Facilities Plan (LREFP)* is the result of a joint planning process between the City and Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) to improve facilities planning, accommodate the growing student population, and enhance educational programs and services.

Phase 1 of the LREFP (2013-2015) outlines options for providing facilities that meet ACPS educational specifications for elementary and middle schools. Work included analysis of space utilization and capacity; assessment of feasibility for adding capacity at existing sites; short- and long-term recommendations for inclusion in the City's 10-year CIP; and incorporating growth forecasts and infrastructure needs into City's planning processes.

Phase 2 of the LREFP began in spring 2016 and is led by ACPS with support from City departments. The focus of this phase is to define ACPS short-, intermediate-, and long-term facility needs for pre-kindergarten and high school and to subsequently identify solutions.

Products to date:

- [Long Range Educational Facilities Plan \(2015\)](#)
 - [Pre-K Center Educational Specifications \(2016\)](#)
 - [Elementary School Educational Specifications \(2014\)](#)
 - [PreK-8 School Educational Specifications \(2011\)](#)
 - [Middle School Educational Specifications \(2014\)](#)
 - [High School Educational Specifications \(2017\)](#)
 - TBD – Updated chapters of the 2015 Plan (anticipated for October 2017)

City Strategic Facilities Plan

The City is currently in the process of developing a strategic plan for existing and future City facilities and needs. Work includes surveying existing conditions, identifying needs and opportunities for efficiencies, and establishing criteria for prioritization of City facility improvements. A strategy and framework for near- and long-term facility-related decision making was developed and information gathering has begun. The Plan is anticipated for completion in December 2017.

Goals and Objectives:

- Understand current City leased/owned assets and projected future needs.
- Identify gaps to be filled in order to fulfill agency services.
- Create a baseline that guides future investment in City facilities and decision making.
- Establish criteria for prioritization, site suitability, and co-location that optimizes the city's investment in municipal facilities.
- Design a process, plan, methodology, and strategic approach that will guide the City in making facilities-based decisions that can maximize the return on investment.

The Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee

The Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee (BFAAC) advises and supports the City Council by examining the City's budget procedures and processes; and recommends ways of improving that process, including participation by the public. BFAAC has 13 members with two-year terms, comprised of seven members designated by City Council, three members-at-large; one member designated by the Alexandria School Board and two members designated by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

Role:

- Advises Council and budget and fiscal agencies of City government on issues as requested.
- Advocates fiscal responsibility and sound financial management practices throughout City government.
- Acts as a primary advisory group for the City in the following areas:
 - Annual operating and capital budget
 - Revenues
 - Debt policies and borrowing
 - City-wide personnel compensation issues
 - Performance measurement
 - Other Special Projects as directed by City Council
- Focuses on long term impacts of current and proposed expenditures, revenue and financial practices.
- Serves as impartial advisor to City Council and Staff.
- Seeks ways to improve the budget process and citizen understanding and participation.

ACPS Budget Advisory Committee

The Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) advises the Alexandria City School Board on the annual ACPS Combined-Funds Budget and the 10-year Capital Improvement Program. The Committee recommends approaches, and serves as a source of information for interested parents, students, and community organizations to foster deeper understanding, promote public participation and ensure transparency in the budget process.

The BAC is currently comprised of seven School-Board-appointed members including the Chair. Each member serves two-year terms.

Specific Role:

- Fosters deeper understanding, promotes public participation and ensures transparency in the budget process.
- Reviews the School Board's financial policies and regulations ("D" policies) and recommends updates as needed.
- Examines Goal #6 (Effective and Efficient Operations) of the ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan and provides budget recommendations to the School Board about how to reach the goals in a budget constrained environment.
- Performs risk analysis to activities to inform School Board budgeting decisions.
- Reviews major budget documents, as appropriate, identifying the key information points and illustrations needed to promote transparency and broader community consumption.

City Council/School Board Subcommittee

This subcommittee is comprised of two members of City Council and two members of the ACPS School Board. City and ACPS staff provide monthly updates to the committee relevant to joint interests.