Arlington School Board Meeting

February 5, 2026

Arlington Public Schools

Every Student Counts Episode: Upstanders Program



This week's *Every Student Counts* video highlights APS work to address bullying and harassment through new initiative at Kenmore Middle School.

February Recognitions and Calendar Look Ahead













- Feb. 11 – Early Release for all Students, Professional Learning
- Feb. 12 - Secondary Report Cards Available
- Feb. 16 – Presidents' Day, No School
- Feb. 17 – Elementary Report Cards Available

Your Voice Matters Survey Launches Feb. 4!

The 2026 Your Voice Matters Survey launches February 6 through March 6

- Voluntary survey conducted annually
- Gathers input on academic support, student well-being, school climate, and staff and family engagement
- The Opt-Out window ends Jan. 30
- More information available online at **apsva.us/engage/yvm**



Kindergarten Registration and Webinar

Pre-Registration opens Feb. 17



- APS will host a Kindergarten Information Session webinar.
- The session will take place on **March 3**.
- Simultaneous interpretation in Spanish will be provided.
- This session will focus on welcoming families, sharing key information to support a smooth transition into kindergarten.

Engage with APS! Current Initiatives



Contact Engage with APS! about current initiatives: engage@apsva.us

For other questions or feedback, please visit the Contact APS webpage.

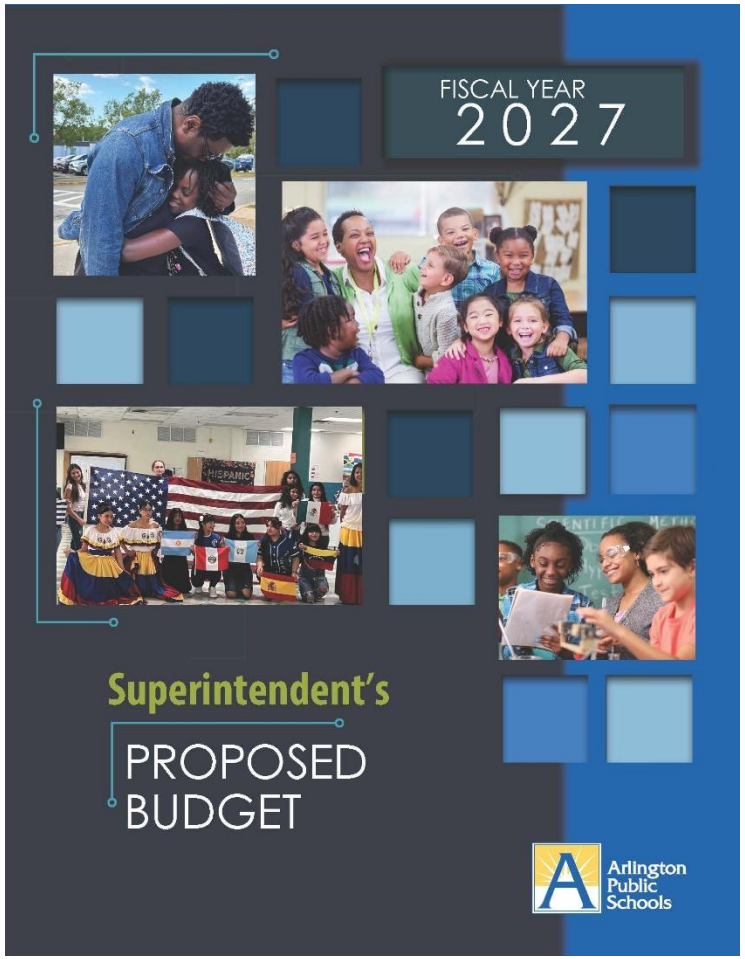
APS invites community input on current initiatives through Engage with APS:

- **Non-Traditional Programs Proposal**
  - See the timeline, next steps and how you can provide feedback.
- **FY 2027 Budget Development**
  - See key upcoming dates and opportunities to provide feedback
- **APS Device Work Group**
- **Early Childhood Work Group**

apsva.us/engage

FY 2027 Budget Calendar

- **Feb. 26 – Superintendent's Proposed FY 2027 Budget**
- March 24 – County/School Board Joint Work Session
- **March 26 – School Board's Proposed FY 2027 Budget**
- April 14 – Budget Work Sessions
  - Work Session #1, 9-10:30 a.m.
  - Work Session #2, 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
  - Work Session #3, 1-2:30 p.m.
  - Work Session #4, 2:45-4:15 p.m.
- **April 14 - Public Hearing on School Board's Proposed Budget**
- **May 14 – Board Action Item: School Board's Adopted FY27 Budget**



Additional Information is available at apsva.us/budget

APS Awarded $25,000 Grant to Expand Parent- Teacher Home Visits

Families

"This was one of the best experiences I've had as a parent. The teachers were welcoming, professional, and passionate about their work."

"It helped us feel like we already had people in our corner if we needed help. What an amazing service this is! "





Staff

"I have gained greater acceptance and compassion for my students and their families, learning about diverse cultural traditions. "

"Every visit reminds me that we are all writing a story and that story is different for everyone. When families start to share their joys and struggles, we become more aware of what it takes to get their student to school, every day."



Winter Storm Impact and APS Response

Ice accumulation and below-freezing temperatures caused significant safety hazards following initial storm on Jan. 25.

Response: APS and County agencies operated in close, continuous coordination. Facilities and Operations crews worked extended, 12-hour shifts.

Closure Decisions: Made with caution, balancing safety and prompt reopening. Based on:

- Daily coordination with County and local school divisions.
- Evaluation of weather forecasts and conditions in Arlington and neighboring counties, where many staff reside.
- Assessment of road, sidewalk, bus stop, and parking lot conditions.
- Pre-emptive bus route runs and inspections for hazards.

Schools can only open when **students and buses can safely reach them.**

Academic Calendar: Traditional snow days built to meet instructional requirements.

- Elementary: 12 allotted snow days (6 remaining)
- Secondary: 15 allotted snow days (9 remaining)
- Transition to distance learning after reaching that threshold to maintain instructional hours without extending the school year.

Communication: Decisions shared promptly to assist family and staff planning.



Winter Storm Impact and APS Response

What we heard:

- Desire for earlier situational updates
- Clearer explanation of *what specifically was preventing reopening*
- Ability to mobilize community help
- Challenges with planning for childcare and loss of instructional time



What we will improve:

- Provide weekend situational status updates during extended closures
- Share specific operational barriers (bus stops, sidewalks, refreezing areas)
- Include clearer decision timelines when conditions are unlikely to improve overnight

Bright Spots: APS Facilities and Operations Heroes Clear the Path to Learning

BRIGHT SPOTS











