

New Elementary School AAP Center Proposal for North Springfield Elementary School

February 26, 2026 School Board Meeting

Fairfax County PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENGAGE • INSPIRE • THRIVE

Proposal for a New Full-Time AAP Elementary School Center at North Springfield Elementary School starting in SY 2026-27

The proposed schools to be included are: Annandale Terrace, Braddock, North Springfield, Columbia, Mason Crest, and Weyanoke. Rationale for the proposal includes the following:

1. Provides a K-5 option for students in the Annandale pyramid for elementary Full-Time AAP center-based services.

2. Creates grade level alignment from elementary to middle school AAP assignments. Currently, students who are eligible for Full-Time AAP at Annandale Terrace, Braddock, and North Springfield Elementary (all K-5 schools) are assigned to Canterbury Woods Elementary (a K-6 school) for elementary center-based services and Poe (grades 6-8) for middle school center-based services.

3. Provides an opportunity to have more students who are assigned to Annandale middle schools (Holmes/Poe) for general education to attend a middle school with their neighborhood peers.

4. Decreases transportation costs.

5. North Springfield Elementary is currently proposed because it has the most available program capacity of the three schools that require an adjustment to better align grade level pathways from elementary AAP to the new AAP center at Poe Middle School.

Current Enrollment with Local/Center Choice Patterns

The numbers below represent Full-Time AAP eligible students attending the noted school in SY 2025-26 to provide an estimate of potential cohort size and current choice patterns for Local or Center-Based Full-Time AAP options. Schools in orange and blue offer Local Full-Time AAP and show the number of students currently choosing the local option. Schools in red have Center-Based Full-Time AAP and show the number of eligible students from the orange and blue schools who choose the center option.

	Grade 3 eligible	Grade 4 eligible	Grade 5 eligible	Total	Program Capacity Utilization Before	Program Capacity Utilization After
Annandale Terrace (local)	7	2	6	15	86%	84%
Braddock (local)	7	10	9	26	89%	86%
North Springfield	2	6	5	13	75%	**94%-117%***
Columbia (local)	21	16	15	52	88%	76%
Weyanoke (local)	7	9	7	23	89%	85%
Mason Crest (local)	13	10	8	31	79%	76%
Canterbury Woods (center)	21	26	24	71	89%	78%
Belvedere (center)	6	12	19	37	89%	83%
Other (Students currently on a transfer request)	1	1	6	8	-	-
Total Maximum Cohort	85	92	99	276*	-	-

* The range of program capacity utilization is 94% (if current choice patterns for Local Full-Time AAP hold) to 117% (if all families choose the Center-Based Full-Time AAP option). Currently **147 families** choose to stay at their **local** school for AAP services; **108 families** choose the **Center** option.

Source: September 2025 certified membership

Program Capacity Utilization Considerations

- Currently, more students (147) remain at their base school for Local Full-Time AAP compared to the students who choose to attend the Center options (108 students)
- The range of program capacity utilization is 94% (if current choice patterns for Local Full-Time AAP hold) to 117% (if all families choose the Center-Based Full-Time AAP option).
- North Springfield's design capacity is 835 students compared to the current program utilization capacity of 616 students. If needed, there is flexibility to relocate some programs (e.g., PreK, EAC) to other schools with capacity, thereby reducing the program capacity utilization at North Springfield.

AAP Center Reassignments - Proposed

Feeder Elementary School	Current Assignment for Full-Time AAP Elementary Center	Proposed Assignment for Full-Time AAP Elementary Center	Assignment for Full-Time AAP Middle School Center (base middle school noted)	High School Assignment
Annandale Terrace	Canterbury Woods	North Springfield	Poe (Poe)	Annandale High School
Braddock	Canterbury Woods	North Springfield	Poe (Poe)	Annandale High School
North Springfield	Canterbury Woods	North Springfield	Poe (Holmes)	Annandale High School
Weyanoke	Belvedere	North Springfield	Poe (Holmes)	Annandale High School
Columbia	Belvedere	North Springfield	Poe (Holmes)	Annandale High School
Mason Crest	Belvedere	North Springfield	Poe (Poe)	Falls Church HS

Community Feedback

- The Chief Academic Office held two hybrid community feedback sessions on February 2 and 5 at North Springfield Elementary Schools. Sessions were in-person with a virtual option.
- Ninety-two families registered to attend the meetings.
- Overall, the community is supportive of the opening of a new AAP Center at North Springfield Elementary, noting that it will resolve misaligned grade-level patterns to the AAP Center at Poe Middle School and will provide a within-pyramid AAP Center option for some students in the Annandale pyramid.
- The community expressed wanting to avoid scenarios that would create split feeder situations and felt that cohorts from schools should stay together to the greatest extent possible.

Proposed Implementation Phasing

2026-27 School Year	2027-28 School Year	2028-29 School Year
North Springfield implements **grade 3** of Center-based Full-Time AAP. Rising grade 3 Full-Time AAP eligible students within the new boundary will access Full-Time AAP at: ● North Springfield Elementary for Center-based AAP ***or*** ● the base elementary school for Local Full-Time AAP	Rising **grade 3&4** Full-Time AAP eligible students within the new boundary will access Full-Time AAP at: ● North Springfield Elementary for Center-based AAP ***or*** ● the base elementary school for Local Full-Time AAP	Rising **grades 3-5** Full-Time AAP eligible students within the new boundary will access Full-Time AAP at: ● North Springfield Elementary for Center-based AAP ***or*** ● the base elementary school for Local Full-Time AAP

North Springfield AAP Proposal: Timeline and Next Steps

- **December 18, 2025:** School Board approval to engage the community to explore a new Full-Time AAP elementary school center at North Springfield Elementary School
- **February 2 & 5, 2026:** Community engagement meetings for all potentially impacted school communities.
- **February 26, 2026:** School Board New Business
- **March 19, 2026:** School Board hearing for community members who want to sign up to speak (a sign up will be on the School Board website 10 days prior)
- **March 26, 2026:** School Board vote on opening a new AAP center at North Springfield Elementary
- **First week of April:** Full-time AAP eligibility decisions sent to families of newly eligible students
- **April 13-May 1, 2026:** Orientations at Center and Local Full-time program sites for families of newly eligible students
- **May 15, 2026:** Due date for family decisions regarding choice of Local or Full-Time AAP options
- **August 2026:** Grade 3 of Full-Time AAP Center services begin at North Springfield Elementary