

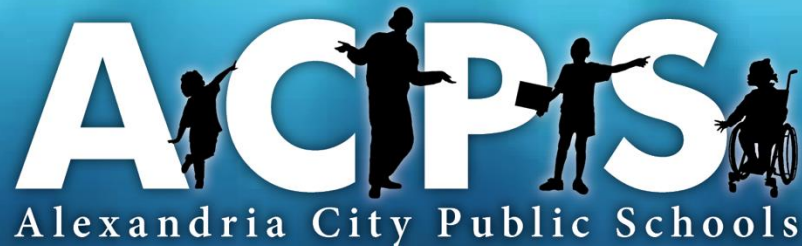
High School Educational Specifications

School Board Meeting

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Every Student Succeeds

Essential Questions

1. What are Educational Specifications?
2. How do Teacher Collaboration Rooms (TCRs) promote academic success and efficient building utilization?
3. How does ACPS currently utilize its high school classroom space vs. neighboring school divisions?
4. How can ACPS implement the Ed. Specs. to facilitate efficient scheduling that may benefit teachers?
5. How will the Ed. Specs. be used for facilities planning?

Introduction & Background

- An **Educational Specification** (Ed Spec) is a guiding planning document that describes the proposed outcomes of a school modernization or new construction project.
- ACPS presented the Draft High School Educational Specifications to the School Board on June 16, 2016.
- The High School Ed. Specs. came back to the School Board on July 5, 2016. At that time, the School Board requested that staff research the utilization at the High School to see if it is better to have every teacher assigned to a classroom.

Teacher Collaboration Rooms

Rather than teachers having their planning periods within the classroom, teacher collaboration rooms (TCR) would be used for planning periods.

Each full time teacher may have his or her own storage space within the TCR and there would be hoteling stations to accommodate teachers during their planning periods.

Benefits of Teacher Collaboration Rooms

- Allow for teachers of similar subject areas to share ideas and plan in a collaborative manner to ensure all students are given the best possible academic experience
- Promote better utilization of the schools to save square footage in the building

Current Conditions: ACPS

- Currently, at T.C. Williams High School, most classrooms are used by more than 1 teacher during the school day.
- Classroom use is grouped by subject matter, rather than specific to a teacher.

Current Conditions: Surrounding Divisions

ACPS staff reached out to the academic and facilities staff of neighboring school divisions to learn how high school utilization is addressed in their facilities. Below are the responses ACPS received:

| <u>School Division</u> | <u>Current Conditions</u> |
|---|---|
| Arlington Public Schools (APS) | APS does not plan for teachers to have their own classrooms. This is not included in their Ed. Spec.; however, guidelines for efficient space usage to address capacity issues are outlined in the Arlington Facilities and Student Accommodation Plan (AFSAP). APS is pursuing CIP projects to add teacher workspace in an effort to increase capacity so that classrooms are used more effectively. |
| Prince William County Public Schools (PWCPSS) | PWCPS utilizes classrooms to the maximum extent possible. All but highly specialized rooms are shared to meet capacity needs. |
| Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) | Teachers are assigned to classrooms with no guarantee that the classroom would not be used during planning periods by other teachers. Depending on how crowded the high school is, FCPS has teachers on carts who have a teacher desk in a work room for planning. Utilization is building specific and adjusted to meet capacity. |

Response to School Board Questions

- Would teachers have to change classrooms every period?
 - Efficient scheduling may allow for most teachers to stay in the same classroom for the majority, if not all, of their classes.
- How will classrooms maintain an identity?
 - Classrooms would be grouped by subject area to maintain an identity within the classroom.

Summary & Recommendation

- The current draft of the High School Ed. Specs.:
 - Allows for scheduling to be made to be most convenient to the teachers
 - Promotes teacher collaboration and efficient space utilization
 - Supports grouping by subject matter so that classrooms maintain identities.
- Staff recommends that the School Board adopt the High School Educational Specification.

Next Steps

- Once adopted, ACPS will use these Ed. Specs. to continue the second phase of the Long Range Educational Facilities Plan.
- The Ed. Specs. will also be considered as ACPS pursues a grade level feasibility study to determine the best use of ACPS facilities.



Questions and Discussion

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