

I would like to provide: * Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: * Equity

Topic * Overcrowding and Class Size

Full Name * Rhett Christensen

What is your relationship to ACPS? * Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

From: Patrick Henry and Samuel Tucker PTA Boards

To: ACPS Superintendent and School Board

Subject: Class size and overcrowding at Patrick Henry and Samuel Tucker Elementary Schools

Date: 9 November 2022

Dr. Kay-Wyatt and ACPS School Board,

Our parents/caregivers and teachers appreciate the support from ACPS to reduce our class size numbers. The additional teaching position and opening of a new kindergarten class at Tucker and a new first-grade class at Patrick Henry is a step in the right direction and addresses our most critical issue. However, we cannot stop there. Patrick Henry and Samuel Tucker still have overcrowded classrooms and need more resources and staff to provide the quality education our students need and deserve.

Patrick Henry is still suffering from overcrowding and a lack of resources. We have 975 students in our school, which was projected at a max capacity of 886 (Based on the ACPS SY 2022-2023 Fall Membership Report). That equates to 110% over capacity for this school year. Specifically, Kindergarten and second grade are still over capacity. Kindergarten is at 27 students per class and second grade is

at 27 students per class. We are a title one school and have a large population of English Learners and Special Needs students. Our student population benefits from smaller class sizes. We request that ACPS continues to focus on this issue. For this school year, we request an additional kindergarten class at Patrick Henry and additional instructional aides for the second-grade classes at Patrick Henry.

Samuel Tucker Elementary is still suffering from overcrowding and a lack of resources. The school enrollment is 731 students but was projected to be only 662 students (Based on the ACPS SY 2022-2023 Fall Membership Report). The school is 110% over capacity for the school year. Specifically, four out of five, third-grade classrooms have 29 students; right at the state limit of 30. The other third-grade class has only 21 Students. However, this is because they are in a room that can only hold 21 students. The room was supposed to be a special education classroom but was turned into a third-grade classroom because of overcrowding. This is a perfect example of Tucker continuing to give up education resources and facility space that was meant for additional education activities to support a student body size the school was not designed to accommodate. For this school year, we request ACPS provide a full-time science teacher, a parent liaison, and more instructional aides for our overcrowded classrooms, specifically third grade and fifth grade. We also would like ACPS to explore solutions to provide additional space for educational needs like a STEM lab and special education.

Both Patrick Henry and Samuel Tucker want ACPS to prioritize smaller class sizes at our schools. ACPS needs to prioritize rezoning/redistricting our school to reduce the number of enrolled children in our school in subsequent years to achieve smaller class sizes. ACPS should also find ways to increase the capacity and resources of the school system to ensure a more even distribution of students across the schools and access to important educational resources.

Sincerely,

Patrick Henry and Samuel Tucker PTA Boards