

# Entry Plan Update

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January 27, 2022



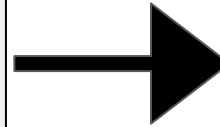
# Entry Plan Findings and Report

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- Overview and Methods
- Student Achievement
- Staff Excellence and Professional Development
- Resources, Infrastructure, and Educational Environment
- Operations, Communications, and Stakeholder Engagement

# Overview and Methods

- 20 Focus Groups with APS Students, K-12;
- 7 Family Listening Sessions, open to all APS Families;
- 7 Staff Listening Sessions, open to all APS Staff;
- 1-on-1 Entry Meetings with APS Administrators;
- Visits to every APS school, with classroom walkthroughs;
- Fall 2020 and 2021 Culture and Climate Surveys;
- Achievement and Accountability data for the Arlington Public Schools;
- Previously-conducted reviews and audits of the school system; and
- Previous and current APS Budgets and Financial Reports



**Student  
Achievement**

**Staff Excellence  
and Professional  
Development**

**Resources,  
Infrastructure, and  
Educational  
Environment**

**Operations,  
Communications,  
and Stakeholder  
Engagement**

# Student Achievement: Strengths

## APS Students Describe How Teachers Hold them to High Expectations

Student 1: If you're struggling, they'll come over as quick as possible.

Student 2: And they'll help you work through it.

Student 3: No matter how long or short [it is]

All of my favorite teachers that I can think of have classroom environments that were always immersive and full of different activities, and they would do stuff to try to actively engage people.

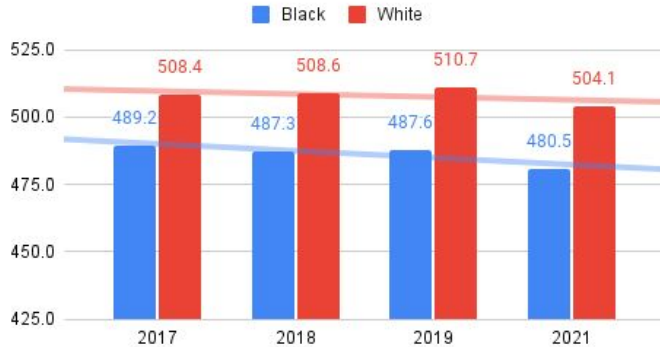
Instead of just sitting and taking notes on something like you're doing a weeklong project about, like, you're getting involved, and that's been really fun.

[Teachers] don't focus much on the grade. They focus on your actual education.

# Student Achievement: Opportunities



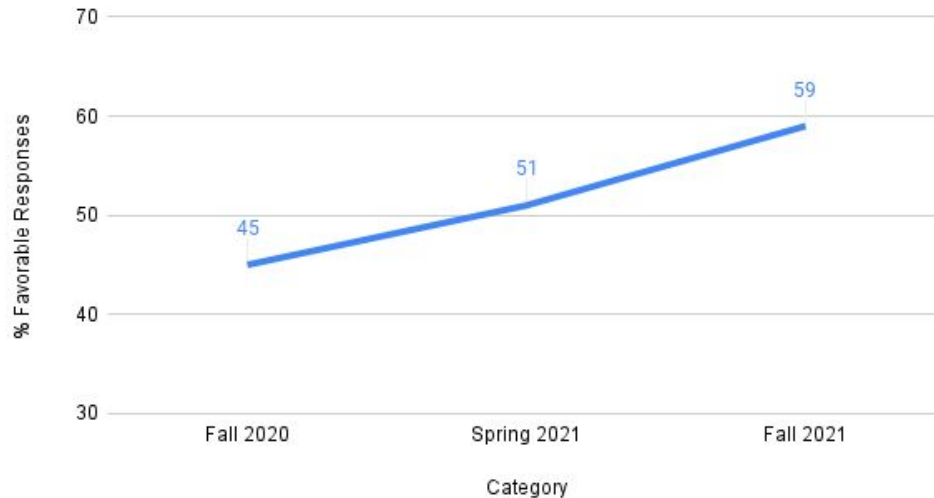
2017-2021 Math Ave Scaled Score, Grades 3-8



Reading Assessment Performance: Fall 2020 - Fall 2021 (iReady)						
3rd Grade	% of Students Performing Mid or Above Grade Level THIRD GRADE		% of Students Performing Mid or Above Grade Level FOURTH GRADE		% of Students Performing Mid or Above Grade Level FIFTH GRADE	
	Fall (20)	Fall (21)	Fall (20)	Fall (21)	Fall (20)	Fall (21)
Phonological Awareness	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Phonics	83%	81%	92%	89%	95%	95%
High-Frequency Words	97%	97%	99%	100%	99%	100%
Vocabulary	56%	50%	48%	45%	39%	35%
Comprehension: Literature	61%	60%	60%	62%	56%	49%
Comprehension: Informational Text	55%	50%	52%	49%	44%	37%

# Staff Excellence and Professional Development: Strengths

Staff Well-Being, 2020-2021



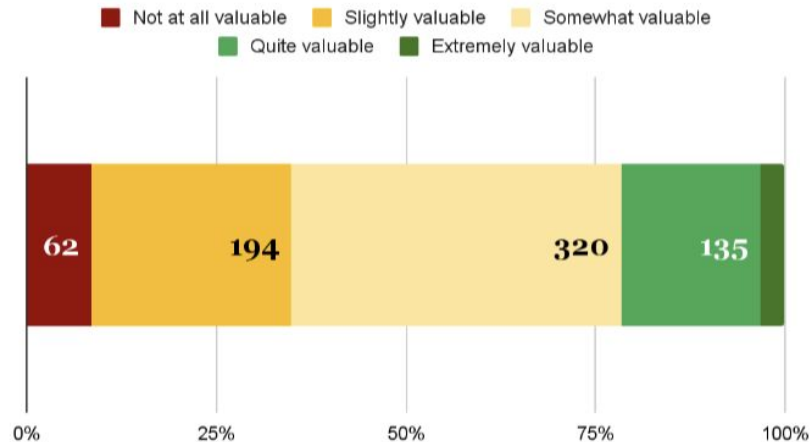
Arlington has excellent service providers who are good at communicating. OT, Speech and Language, Social workers - People have been excellent. I'm impressed with quality of hiring.  
~APS Family Member

APS teachers treat you based on how they see you as a person, not so much as a learner.  
~APS Student

# Staff Excellence and Professional Development: Opportunities

## Valuable Professional Learning: **22% Quite or Extremely Valuable**

Staff: How Valuable are the Available Professional Development Opportunities?



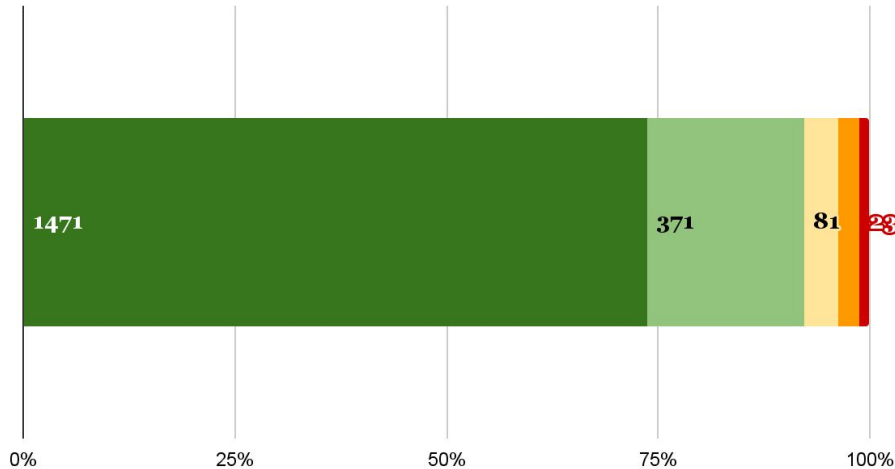
Across the board there needs to be more consistent training and support. Staff, principals, everyone needs to be really engaged. It should be something you expect that they do. And that they commit to.

The range of instructional quality is huge, especially consistency of grading and homework practices. Stop putting the responsibility on the individual student and the individual family. This exacerbates the inequity that exists.

# Resources, Infrastructure, and Educational Environment: Strengths

Families: How Unsafe Does your Child Feel at School?

■ Not at all unsafe ■ Slightly unsafe ■ Somewhat unsafe ■ Quite unsafe ■ Extremely unsafe



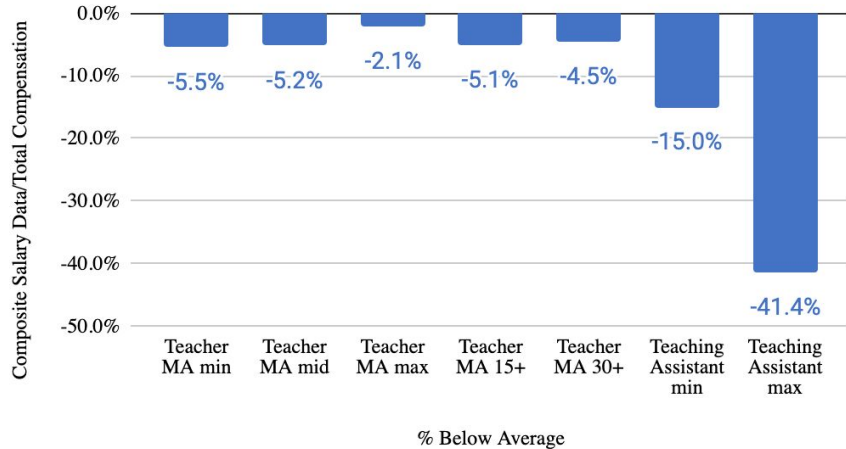
Common Themes of Appreciation During Focus Groups:

- Well-stocked and professionally-staffed school libraries;
- Access to working and reliably learning technologies;
- Access to Fine and Performing Arts programming;
- Access to After School programming;
- Diverse coursework opportunities, particularly at Arlington High School; and
- Robust extracurricular opportunities at the middle and high school levels.



# Resources, Infrastructure, and Educational Environment: Opportunities

APS Teacher and Paraprofessional Pay Relative to Average

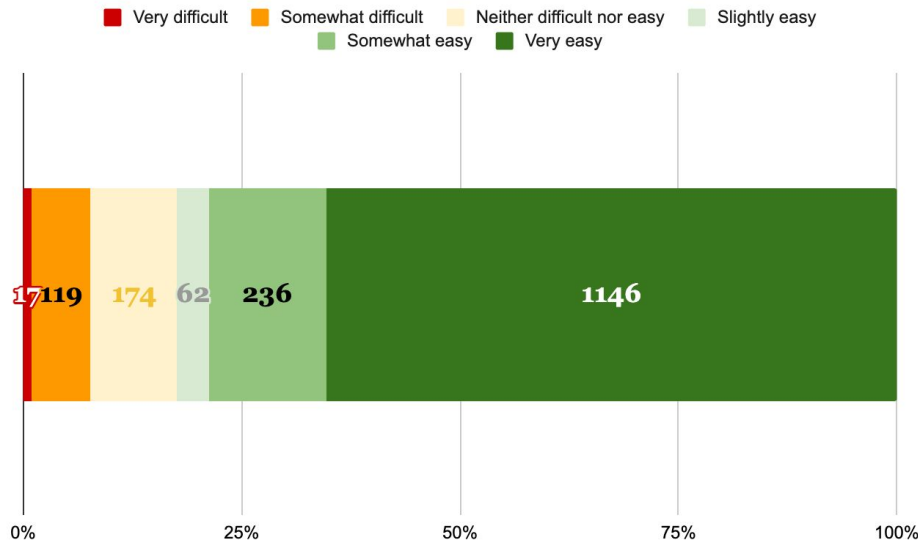


I appreciate the commitment the district has made to equity work, but it would be helpful if the district worked harder on maintaining staff of color in particular in the district. There is a high turnover rate. What can be put in place to support staff of color?

~APS Staff

# Operations, Communications, and Stakeholder Engagement: Strengths

Families: When you Need to, How Easy is it to Get in Contact with School Staff?

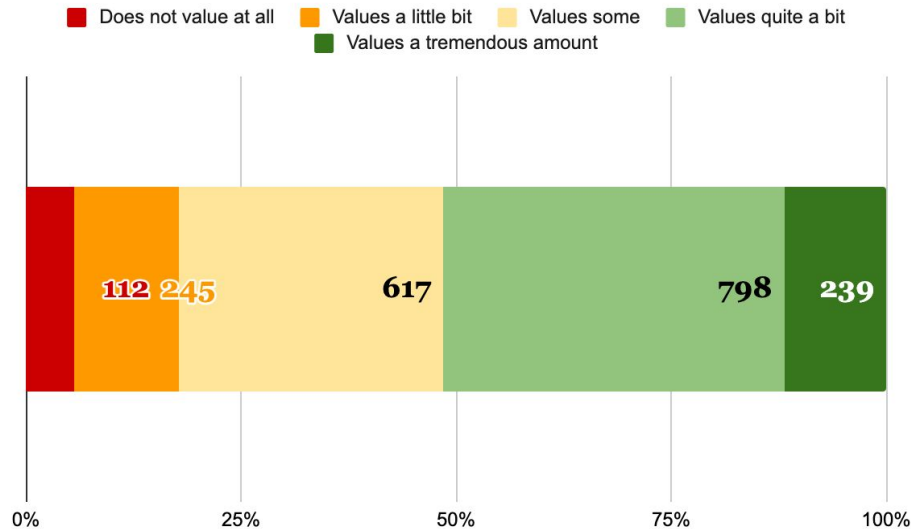


The Town of Arlington's support for education has been evident in the passage of several operating overrides

- The most recent of which was for \$5.5M.
- Passed with a significant majority vote of 68%.
- Families and staff in focus groups shared appreciation for the long-standing collaborative relationship between the Town and schools

# Operations, Communications, and Stakeholder Engagement: Opportunities

Families: How Much do you Feel the School Values your Opinions?



Be transparent, up front, give communication when you can, and acknowledge when you can't.

I work so I'm never at the school, so I'm trying to piece everything together. It would be nice to have a uniform system of communication, no matter what teacher or grade level they all follow it and you don't have to go seeking information.