



ABOUT THE ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

Periodically, Atlanta Public Schools performs a comprehensive Facilities Master Plan to guide decisions about schools, other buildings and sites owned by APS.

The 18-month Facilities Master Plan process is guided by goals and guidelines set forth by the APS Board of Education. In 2019, APS hired a team to help develop recommendations for the Facilities Master Plan. The team that was hired is comprised of Sizemore Group, Bleakly Advisory Group, Sycamore Consulting and HL Strategy, which works in close collaboration with APS staff. The process is informed by the APS strategic plan as well as APS policies and goals related to the Facilities Master Plan - and seeks to engage the community in various ways. The Facilities Master Plan process includes examining APS school facility capacity as well as a demographic study to help forecast trends and determine where the school-age populations are increasing or declining.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What about issues affecting my children now and in the next couple of years?

A: The completed Facilities Master Plan does not include changes affecting the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school years. It will make recommendations to address capacity and enrollment in APS facilities over the next five (2025-2026 school year) and ten years (2030-2031 school year) - including recommendations for the best and highest use for district properties and a plan to dispose of surplus and vacant properties.

You can learn more about capital projects currently underway here:

<https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/52960> and here:

<https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/48590>.

Specific school-level concerns about facilities and capital projects can also be addressed through your school's GO Team. Find your school's GO Team here: <http://apsstrongschools.com/find-your-go-team/>

Q: How are you planning to accommodate an increase in students enrolling in Atlanta Public Schools?

A: The Facilities Master Plan will make recommendations to address capacity and enrollment in APS facilities over the next five (2025-2026 school year) and ten years (2030-2031 school year). The APS Board of Education will ultimately decide the best methods to accommodate changes in school populations.

Q: How are you collecting feedback from the community?

A: The entire community is encouraged to participate, ask questions, and share ideas and concerns throughout the process. Three rounds of regional Community Conversations and one round of cluster-specific Conversations are scheduled across the district. Additionally, the community is encouraged to provide feedback and share ideas through the APS Let's Talk portal, available 24 hours a day through <http://www.atlantapublicschools.us>. Please visit the Facilities Master Plan website for links to upcoming conversations and presentations from past community conversations:

<https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/FMP>.

Q: When will the community be able to react to specific recommendations?

A: The current Facilities Master Plan timeline includes presenting school options to the APS Board of Education in late March. Following review by the APS Board of Education, the options will be shared with the public during Community Conversations in all nine APS clusters in April.

Q: Who developed and adopted the process guidelines and goals? Who determined the Student Success Factor?

A: The 18-month Facilities Master Plan process is guided by goals and guidelines set forth by the APS Board of Education. To learn more about the planning guidelines, working premises, APS strategic plan, policies, Student Success Formula, goals, and Georgia State Law governing the Facilities Master Plan, please visit <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/FMP>.

Q: What do you mean by ‘equitable’ schools in the context of the Facilities Master Plan?

A: All schools have the necessary spaces to foster high-performing environments for their students to learn, educators to inspire and families to engage.

Q: What do you mean by ‘sustainable’ in the context of the Facilities Master Plan?

A: The practices in facilities, equipment, and academics which prioritize efficiency, conservation, health, and longevity.

Q: How is the Facilities Master Plan linked with other APS-driven plans, policies and projects underway (Grady Long-Range Planning effort, APS Strategic Plan, current capital projects, etc)?

A: The 18-month Facilities Master Plan process is guided by goals and guidelines set forth by the APS Board of Education - which includes guidance from the APS strategic plan, policies and goals. Likewise, current capital projects are being considered.

Q: How is the process incorporating outside expertise and broader trends in the region?

A: The process has included collaboration to ensure alignment with various government, nonprofit, and educational entities in the Atlanta Metro area, including Atlanta Regional Commission, Atlanta Housing, City of Atlanta Housing, and City of Atlanta Planning.

Q: What kinds of recommendations are you anticipating in the final plan?

A: The Facilities Master Plan will make recommendations for capital improvements to address capacity and enrollment in APS facilities over the next five (2025-2026 school year) and ten years (2030-2031 school year). The APS Board of Education will ultimately decide the best methods to accommodate changes in school populations.

Q: How will the Facilities Master Plan recommendations be funded?

A: Once the Facility Master Plan recommendations are approved by the Atlanta Board of Education, the funding process may begin. To fund the recommendations approved by the APS Board of Education, APS

may prepare for a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, or SPLOST, referendum on the November 2020 ballot.

Q: When will the recommendations adopted under the Facilities Master Plan go into effect?

A: The completed Facilities Master Plan will make recommendations to address capacity and enrollment in APS facilities over the next five (2025-2026 school year) and ten years (2030-2031 school year).

Q: How has the Facilities Master Plan process incorporated the impact of charter schools?

A: In the next five years, alternative school choices including charter schools are expected to grow to the maximum enrollment authorized by APS – and remain at that enrollment cap thereafter. For the Facilities Master Plan process, the distribution of the future student enrollment increase is assumed to draw from the current school zones and in the same proportion as the current charter school's population.

Q: How has the Facilities Master Plan process incorporated the impact of City of Atlanta annexations?

A: Past enrollment increases from annexations were included in the Facilities Master Plan enrollment forecasting method. We assume these annexations will occur in similar locations and at similar rates over the next five years.

Q: What are the data sources for the Facilities Master Plan enrollment projections?

A: The Facilities Master Plan consultants collaborated with a range of government, nonprofit and educational institutions in the Metro Atlanta region – many of which are in the process of their own long-term regional growth projections. The team worked closely with the Atlanta Regional Commission, Atlanta Housing, City of Atlanta Housing and City of Atlanta Planning to align forecasted growth in the Atlanta region and specifically for the APS footprint. Other data sources included City of Atlanta Parcel Files, Co-Star Inventory, Atlanta Regional Commission Census Tract Household Growth Forecast and data on planned Atlanta Housing redevelopment sites. Further, the Facilities Master Plan team correlated current APS student enrollment with housing unit mix (what types of housing students live in) for SY 2019-2020 to determine "student yield." Student yield is the number of students expected to enroll in Atlanta Public Schools based on the type and value of housing in each neighborhood in each cluster.

Q: What does the Facilities Master Plan calculate as the ideal enrollment capacity at a school?

A: Ideal enrollment varies based on each individual school and grade arrangement. For the Facilities Master Plan process, we recommend between 65% and 85% of enrollment capacity for new schools.

Q: How will your recommendations impact renovation projects currently underway?

A: Current capital projects have been incorporated into the Facilities Master Plan enrollment projections. Capital projects in process or planned will be adjusted if impacted by the Facilities Master Plan recommendations adopted by the APS Board of Education.

Q: How are you considering APS properties that are currently not in use and APS-owned vacant land parcels?

A: We are thoughtfully considering recommendations for the best and highest use for surplus and vacant properties district properties, especially in terms of areas needing expansion options. Further,

vacant land will be considered in the second part of the Facilities Master Plan process and by November/December 2020 there will be specific recommendations for the APS Board of Education to consider.

Q: What is the Student Success Formula and where did it come from?

A: The Student Success Funding (SSF) is the funding formula that will allocate funds based on the attributes of students. The Facilities Master Plan recommendations will align how APS uses its facilities with the SSF formula. As part of the current strategic plan, APS committed to improve efficiency and resource allocation in a manner grounded in strategic academic direction and data. The SSF formula prioritizes resources based on student needs, meeting one of APS' key strategic objectives. For more information on the SSF formula visit:

<https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/cms/lib/GA01000924/Centricity/ModuleInstance/59143/FY19%20School%20Allotment%20Guidelines%204.17.pdf>

Q: How birth rate trends in Atlanta & declining national birth rate trends are incorporated into the Facilities Master Plan enrollment forecast?

A: It takes five years for a recently born child to enroll in kindergarten. Therefore, the projected birth rate will principally affect the enrollment in the 10-year enrollment projections and only so far as elementary school enrollments are concerned. The Facilities Master Plan process used the actual birth rate for all births occurring to women living in Atlanta through last year (2019) to forecast the entering kindergarten classes for the next five and ten years. The team then incorporated the birth trends into the grade projections by following and applying the rate at which APS captures new births, five years later, in kindergarten.