

Dear Families and Community Members,

The State of Arlington Public Schools is bright and strong. I am extremely proud to be part of the dedicated and amazing school district team. Thank you for partnering with us to make rich teaching and learning happen every day for EACH of our students.



We are making steady progress to fully implement our Strategic Plan. The District Strategic Plan is focused on increasing performance in four goal areas:

- Student Learning and Achievement;
- Safe and Caring Environment;
- Resource Stewardship; and
- Parent and Community Partnerships.

In this State of the District message, I am sharing a snapshot of the positive gains and improvements we are making in each goal area, as well as areas where opportunity and achievement gaps still exist.

This year, our progress is noteworthy in many areas and yet there is always room for growth and progress. We will be relentless in our continued pursuit of meeting our district mission to educate, prepare and inspire all students to graduate and seek their potential as lifelong learners. Thank you Arlington families and community members for your support.

Passionate for Student Learning!

Dr. Chrys Sweeting, Superintendent

Student Learning and Achievement

The district graduation rate has climbed to an all-time high of 90%! This has been a steady increase over the last three years. We have increased opportunities and the number of pathways for students to earn their diplomas to support and lead each student to graduation success. Students can secure high school credits in a variety of ways including earning credits during eighth grade in algebra and physical education. Students can also earn dual credits where the credits count for high school and college credit as well as earn industry certifications to increase vocational readiness.

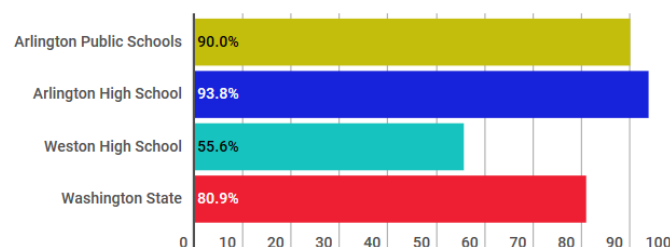
A Math Task Force comprised of staff, parents, students, and community members is in its third year of collaboration. The purpose of the task force is to identify actions to foster a positive mathematical growth mindset and to implement actions that specifically increase math learning and achievement K-12. Even though our mathematical performance is above the state average, our performance in mathematics needs improvement to fully prepare each student for career, college and life.

Classroom and support staff across the district are engaged in important professional development learning rich teaching and culturally responsive practices.

We will continue to increase access and remove barriers to promote equity and academic success for EACH student.

Class of 2019

● 4-YEAR ○ 5-YEAR



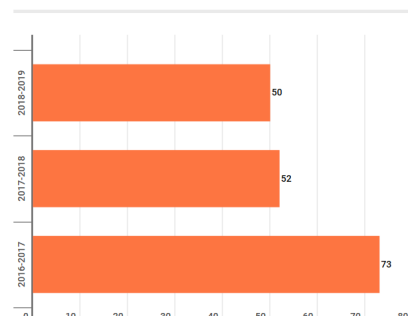
Safe and Caring Environment Progress

We are addressing safety and security needs using a comprehensive approach. This involves looking at both internal and external safety considerations including facility design, safety equipment needs, professional development, social, emotional and behavioral support, and a systemic student threat assessment process. We continue to closely monitor discipline referrals, attendance, and the practice of safety drills for situations such as fire, intruder, earthquake, evacuation and reunification. We refined our school visitor and volunteer processes to include background checks and required volunteer training. We provided contact information for the SafeSchools Alert Tipline on magnets which were mailed to every family this fall. Metal signs with the tipline information are being installed in bathrooms and locker rooms in schools across the district.

The number of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying incidents have decreased over the last three years. We will continue to actively foster a safe and caring environment for our students to learn.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING INCIDENTS

2017 ~ 2019



Resource Stewardship Progress

We are serious about maximizing our resources to benefit student learning.

Highlights of positive stewardship include decreased utility costs, clean financial and program audits, the purchase of 10 new buses and a plan to buy more over the next three years, a fund balance

well within the approved policy requirements, school supplies provided for all students and the elimination of student athletic fees.

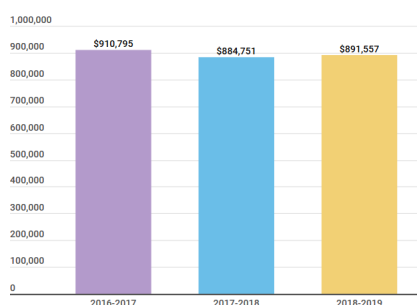
Each year we review "need" requests from staff for additional resources. This year, we allocated additional K-3 teachers to lower class size, expanded behavior/mental health support to assist with the increasing social-emotional needs of our students, maintained the academic intervention bus at the high schools, and added additional para-educators and office support to schools.

We have wonderful staff who love working in Arlington. They are essential, important and mission critical to ensure success for EACH student. Our teacher retention rates are high and the average years of experience for teaching staff continues to increase. Over the last three years, instructional staff has been added to serve an increased enrollment of about 100 additional students each year and for class size needs.

We continue to be committed to transparent stewardship of the district's resources to benefit student learning and achievement.

UTILITY COSTS

2017 ~ 2019



Parent and Community Partnership

We partner with numerous community organizations who support student learning. In fact, there are over 30 organizations who partner with us. One example is the Arlington Education Foundation (AEF) that makes classroom mini-grants available to teachers twice each year. Recently, they provided nearly \$10,000 to fund classroom mini-grants in our district.

We continue to add opportunities to engage families and community members in the work of the district and share in making critical decisions that impact student learning. This year, in addition to listening to students and staff feedback during Student and Staff Voices at each school, we added Community Voices where parents and community members come together to share celebrations, ideas for improvements, and are asked where they would like to see Arlington Public Schools in five years. We make better decisions together. If you would like to participate in one of the Community Voices events, please contact Julie Davis in the Superintendent's office at 360-618-6202 or jdavis@asd.wednet.edu.

This year, we added district committees where parents, students, staff and community members are meeting to discuss and grapple with issues such as: 1) District Calendar and Professional Development Schedule; 2) Potential Later Start Time for Secondary Schools in the future; 3) Bond Oversight Committee to oversee capital projects; and 4) A-Building Task Force to study the potential uses for the former Arlington High School building.

We believe frequent communication between the school district and our families and community members is vital. We continue to refine and enhance our methods and increase our communication with you, a critical partner in this important work.

PARENTS/COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON DISTRICT COMMITTEES

2018-2019

