



Community Input on Programming Options for Bucknell ES

Mateo Dunne
Mount Vernon District
Fairfax County School Board

The Challenge: Significant Under-Enrollment



Year	Enrollment
1955	Bucknell ES constructed with capacity of 690 students
2017	FCPS renovated Bucknell ES and expanded its capacity to 970 students.
Now	Only 344 students are enrolled at Bucknell ES.



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Mount Vernon District Representative
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The Opportunity: Introduce New Programming to Increase Enrollment



Criteria to Identify Programming Options

- Has been successfully implemented elsewhere in FCPS
- Can be implemented at low cost
- Can be implemented in the near term



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The Options

(in no particular order)

Arts & Science Magnet Program

- ✓ Proven in FCPS
- ✓ Low-Cost
- ✓ QuickStart-Up

Spanish Immersion

- ✓ Proven in FCPS
- ✓ Low-Cost
- ✓ QuickStart-Up

Expand PreK Programs

- ✓ Proven in FCPS
- ✓ Low-Cost
- ✓ QuickStart-Up

Other Magnet Options



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Arts & Science Magnet Program

- Bucknell ES would follow the same curriculum as other FCPS elementary schools, but students would have access to additional programming.
- FCPS has two magnet schools--Bailey's ES and Hunter Woods ES. Both have operated "arts and science" magnet programs for 20 years.
- The School Board could designate Bucknell ES as a "magnet" school, which would provide supplemental funding for additional equipment, staff, and training.
- Magnet schools offer guaranteed admission to students residing within the boundaries. In addition, students residing outside the boundaries can apply to attend through a lottery process. FCPS provides school bus transportation for students attending magnet schools.
- An "arts and science" magnet program involves the integration of the arts (to include dance, drama, music, visual arts, poetry, and/or storytelling) with other subject areas, such as English language arts, social studies, science, and mathematics.
- The "arts and science" program was originated by the Kennedy Center through its "Changing Education through the Arts" (CETA) program. Each summer, administrators and teachers receive training in arts integration. Each teacher can select from a variety of training options.

Spanish Immersion Program

- Bucknell ES would follow the same curriculum as other FCPS elementary schools, but students would have access to additional programming.
- Students are taught Language Arts and Social Studies in English, and they are taught Health, Mathematics, and Science in Spanish.
- FCPS operates “two way” Spanish immersion programs at Groveton ES, Rose Hill ES, and Washington Mill ES. In a “two way” Spanish immersion programs, 50% of students come from English-speaking families, and 50% of students come from Spanish-speaking families.
- There are two options: all students participate in Spanish immersion (“whole school” program), or only some students participate in Spanish immersion (“strand” program).
- Immersion programs offer guaranteed admission to students residing within the boundaries. In addition, students residing outside the boundaries can apply to attend through a lottery process. FCPS does not provide school bus transportation for students attending immersion programs, but Bucknell ES could request the School Board to change this policy.

Pre-K Expansion Program

- There is a need for more Pre-Kindergarten classes in the Mount Vernon and Franconia Districts:
 - Up to 3 Enhanced Autism classes (EAC);
 - Up to 3 Preschool Autism classes (PAC); and
 - Up to 3 Early Child Class Based (ECCB) classes.
- Bucknell ES already hosts several Pre-K classes, so it could request the placement of additional Pre-K classes.
- FCPS seeks to avoid the concentration of too many Pre-K programs at one site, so FCPS may limit the number of Pre-K students at Bucknell ES.





Other Magnet Programs

- Bucknell ES could propose the creation of a new magnet program, such as one focused on environmental science.
- FCPS could assist with the creation of new programming for a magnet program. At a minimum, Bucknell would be asked to designate a site coordinator for 1-2 years to facilitate program implementation and teacher training.
- FCPS would have to consider the possible cost and timeline for implementation.

The Decision

- A Bucknell Working Group is forming to solicit feedback from parents, families, teachers, students, and staff to determine which programming options have the greatest interest and support.
- You can join the Bucknell Working Group by contacting Nelda Brown, Staff Aide to School Board Member Mateo Dunne, at nnbrown@fcps.edu.
- School Board Member Mateo Dunne and Region 3 Assistant Superintendent Ray Lonnett are coordinating with the Bucknell Working Group to gather feedback and input.
- FCPS will make the decision on which program(s) to implement. FCPS may select one or more programs to implement.
- FCPS is focused on programming options that have the greatest interest and support. FCPS will evaluate potential interest and support within the Bucknell ES community and in the region.
- The School Board will make the decision whether to designate Bucknell ES as a magnet school and, if so, whether to provide supplemental funding for equipment, staff, and training.

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