

Follow up to 7/16 community meeting with Superintendent Reid.

Possible Program Options to Increase Enrollment at Bucknell ES¹

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. The following options are presented in no particular order:

Magnet Program for Arts and Science: This is the model used by the only two magnet schools throughout FCPS: Bailey's Upper ES and Hunter Woods ES. Teachers at these schools participate every year in professional development of their own selection that focuses on integrating dance, drama, music, visual arts, poetry, and/or storytelling with other subject areas (such as English language arts, social studies, science, and mathematics). Principals and assistant principals also attend training to build their understanding of arts integration. This approach has been formally evaluated and found to support significant improvement in academic achievement and effort grades, as well as health/physical education achievement and effort grades. There is a strong equity argument to be made for establishing one or more magnet programs/schools along the Route 1 corridor because the existing magnet programs (Bailey's and Hunter Woods) are not readily accessible to local students. If Bucknell becomes a magnet school, FCPS would provide additional staff/teachers, and resources/programming to support this change.

Two-way Spanish Immersion: This approach would allow all students at Bucknell to interact with each other academically and socially to develop proficiency in both Spanish and English, creating a more inclusive environment and supporting all students in accessing subjects in their native language while acquiring second-language skills. This is considered best practice and a gold standard in education.

Expanded Pre-K: There is a need for up to three PAC (preschool autism) classes, up to three ECCB (early childhood class-based) classes, and up to three EAC (enhanced autism) classes. Given that Bucknell already has a PAC and an ECCB, Bucknell ES could accommodate up to six additional classes (mix of the above programs), which would be approximately 48 students. However, best practice is to ensure that special education programs remain geographically dispersed to remain accessible to all families and students. These factors would be considered in determining how many programs and students to assign to Bucknell. This option could begin as soon as Fall 2025.

Other magnet program: An example of this would be an environmental science program or entrepreneurship/business education. Content could be developed by the central office and shared with Bucknell. It would be requested that Bucknell employ an on-site coordinator for 1-2 years to facilitate the development and deployment of this program.

¹ These options were developed by FCPS leadership with our School Board Member Mateo Dunne. Following receipt of community input, FCPS may implement one or more of these options. Any questions about these options should be directed to Nelda Brown, Staff Aide to School Board Member Mateo Dunne, at nnbrown@fcps.edu.