

Education

Between the City's public schools, its proximity to higher education institutions, and its accessibility to lifelong learning offerings, education factors heavily into the City's quality of life. Excellent public education is not just a priority for current residents, but is also an investment in the City's future, and City policies should continue to ensure that educational opportunities are prioritized for future generations. The City will strive to provide excellent instructional services and superior facilities, geared to the needs of our evolving and diverse population. The City of Fairfax School Board maintains its own Strategic Plan and is responsible for the School Services Agreement with FCPS, through which the City is able to ensure outstanding facilities and instructional accommodations for the 3,100 public school students who reside within City limits. As the City grows and student needs evolve, both the City government and the City of Fairfax School Board should continue to prioritize educational services in order to provide the highest possible levels of service for the future needs of the City's school-aged population.

The City also supports non-school-aged education through promotional campaigns, operating some educational programs and allowing access to City owned facilities for educational programs provided by other entities.

Guiding Principle:

In 2035, Fairfax is a city with... world-class community schools and a best-in-class education from preschool to post-high school that prepares students to be productive, responsible members of society, capable of competing in the global economy and motivated to pursue life-long



Education Goal 1

Ensure the City's public education needs are met.

The school services agreement with FCPS has provided outstanding instructional programs for City students, combined with an impressive amount of local control. While all four of the City's public schools have been renovated since 2000, changes in student needs, technology and enrollment must continually be monitored to ensure facilities remain exceptional.

The City School board possesses a deed of covenant on the existing Green Acres site at the south end of the City to accommodate a third elementary school should enrollment increase to a point where Daniels Run and Providence Elementary Schools could not reasonably be expanded to accommodate the growth. The School Board has selected Providence Park as an alternative site for a future school, which would be particularly more appropriate if it is consolidated with the

OUTCOME E1.1: The School Services Agreement with FCPS, guided by the City of Fairfax School Board, continues to provide City students with the highest quality education.

ACTION E1.1.1 Continue to follow the established guidelines of the School Services Agreement and to monitor its implementation.

ACTION E1.1.2 Maintain a close working relationship with the Mayor, City Council and City staff regarding school needs and continue to provide information to the elected officials and staff.

OUTCOME E1.2: Public school facilities and grounds meet the current and future needs of the school-aged population.

ACTION E1.2.1 Continue cooperation between City government and the City of Fairfax School Board to assess and plan for impacts from future residential development.

ACTION E1.2.2 Monitor potential Fairfax County school boundary adjustments to anticipate impacts on City school enrollment.

ACTION E1.2.3 Continue to examine potential need for additional school facilities and the best use for the City of Fairfax School Board's Deed of Covenant on Green Acres.

ACTION E1.2.4 Continue to ensure a safe learning environment, proper program capacities, and the availability of the latest technology and functional accommodations.

ACTION E1.2.5 Promote environmentally friendly practices for school facilities and grounds.

adjacent West Drive Property Yard. Further discussion on this site is provided in the Parcel Specific Recommendations in the Land Use Chapter of this plan.

Education Goal 2

Ensure access to educational and training opportunities for all generations.

City residents place a high priority on education at all stages of life – from early childhood education up to continuing education and adult lifelong learning. Prioritizing the continued growth and development of the City’s educational offerings and linkages by collaborating with local education providers and institutions will help enhance the City’s livability for future generations.

OUTCOME E2.1: All children will be well-prepared to begin elementary school.

ACTION E2.1.1 Continue to promote Pre-K instructional opportunities for all City Pre-K children.

ACTION E2.1.2 Increase access to early childhood literacy and after school care at the City’s community facilities, City of Fairfax Regional Library, and other institutions.

OUTCOME E2.2: The City’s residents will have access to facilities and programs that foster an informed community.

ACTION E2.2.1 Maintain access to the City’s community facilities, City of Fairfax Regional Library, and other institutions for ongoing dialogue in educational events and discussions.

ACTION E2.2.2 Continue to provide residents and businesses with access to timely information on City government programs and initiatives via the monthly CityScene newsletter, Cityscreen-12 television station, City website, and email alerts.

OUTCOME E2.3: Partnerships and community resources provide opportunities for training and continuing education.

ACTION E2.3.1 Continue to foster good relations with nearby education providers such as George Mason University and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI).