Aurora Public Schools is a district of momentum, opportunity and impact.

Learn more about the district’s long-term plan to educate our children and strengthen our community.

Blueprint APS
BUILDING OUR FUTURE
WHAT IS BLUEPRINT APS?

APS as well as districts across the Denver metro area are experiencing sharp enrollment declines. Enrollment declines negatively impact school district budgets. In order to address its significant enrollment shift, APS proactively began planning for the future with Blueprint APS.

Blueprint APS is about providing our children with the necessary resources, schools and learning opportunities to meet the challenges of the future. This long-term plan focuses on strengthening Aurora’s educational programs and ensuring the community has the right buildings and resources to serve students into the future. Blueprint APS has been shaped with community voice and input starting in 2018. The APS Board of Education directed implementation of the plan starting in 2019.

Learn more about Blueprint APS at: aurorak12.org/blueprint

COMMUNITY VOICE, COMMUNITY NEED, COMMUNITY CHOICE

Aurora community members voiced strong support for more choice when it comes to their children’s education. In addition, it is critically important for students to have more real-world experiences at school that make learning exciting and engaging. Blueprint APS provides new choice options through a regional system, offering both magnet schools and boundary schools. Thanks to Blueprint APS, students will be able to choose to attend a specialized magnet school or a boundary school. A magnet school has a specific academic focus or program that engages students to learn in new ways and develop unique skill sets. A boundary school serves all students within its boundary and offers more traditional education programs, sports and activities. In addition, APS will focus on creating more P-8 schools that serve students from preschool through 8th grade.

Blueprint APS also focuses on improving the district’s educational facilities through building, remodeling and repurposing schools and buildings to meet the needs of our students and community. Addressing the future needs of our facilities will allow APS to direct more funding to choice options and strengthen educational programs for students.
WHAT ARE REGIONAL SPECIALIZATIONS?

It is critically important for our students to have more real-world experiences at school, where they can learn in a dynamic setting with an academic focus that fosters life skills. Blueprint APS provides students the opportunity to choose schools with a diverse curriculum within its new, seven-region district. Each region will offer a specialized area of learning and a magnet school that any student can choose to attend.

ONE HEALTH:
Examine the interconnection between people, animals, plants and their shared environment to achieve optimal health outcomes.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND HOSPITALITY:
Focus on the hospitality industry and businesses such as restaurants, lodging, travel and events.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS:
Art and art-related disciplines, from dance to theater, music to visual arts.

STEAM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS AND MATH):
Students will use these disciplines to engage their studies through inquiry, critical thinking and investigation.

TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND DESIGN:
Gain 21st Century communication and design skills studying languages, technologies, sciences and engineering.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INVENTION:
Focus is on learning through investigation and response to engaging and complex questions or challenges.

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING:
An engaging curriculum to gain understanding and skills through investigation and experiences with hands-on, case-based studies.
WHAT IS A MAGNET SCHOOL?

Magnet schools have a special academic focus or program. They are ideal for students with interest in a particular area of study or way of learning. Magnet schools do not typically serve students from one area, but rather draw students like magnets from many different boundaries.

WHAT IS A BOUNDARY SCHOOL?

A boundary school is a neighborhood school. Each region will have its own boundary schools, offering traditional curriculum for students who choose not to attend a magnet school. Boundary schools will have the opportunity to use their regional specializations to provide students with more real-world learning opportunities and experiences.

BLUEPRINT APS IMPLEMENTATION

Repurposing, construction and academic designs are in progress within APS. Implementation has started for regions 2, 3 and 6. Repurposing and transitions in other regions will take place in the coming years. The following changes are currently underway, including:

- New Buildings
  - P-8 School – Green Valley Ranch-Gaylord region – opening planned for the 2023-24 school year
  - New School (potential magnet) – Horizon Development – opening planned for the 2024-25 school year
  - P-8 School at Lyn Knoll – Opening planned for the 2023-24 school year

- Repurposed Buildings
  - Sixth Avenue Elementary School for alternative use – effective for the 2023-24 school year
  - South Middle School for remote learning and alternative use – transition begins during the 2021-22 school year
  - Century Elementary School for remote learning and alternative use – transition begins during the 2021-22 school year
  - Peoria Elementary School, Educational Services Center 4 and Aurora Central High School – transitioning to a Design and Performing Arts magnet campus – opening planned for the 2022-23 school year (Please note that Aurora Central High School will remain a boundary high school and serve all students within its boundary.)
  - Wheeling Elementary School – transitioning to an Entrepreneurship and Invention magnet school – opening planned for the 2022-23 school year
ABOUT AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

• APS has 63 schools from preschool through postsecondary
• The 2021-22 general fund operating budget is $631 million
• Over 38,000 students are enrolled throughout APS
• Students come from 130 countries and speak 160 different languages
• The APS 4-year graduation rate is 79%

Visit aurorak12.org for more information
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