Recent Growth in Alexandria's School Enrollment: The New Normal?

ACPS & City of Alexandria

This Summary

- Recent and historic enrollment
- Preliminary analysis of causes of recent spurt
- Additional analysis for new long range enrollment forecasts
- Long-Range Educational Facilities Plan
  - An 18-month consultant-assisted program to evaluate existing facilities and estimate future needs
  - Goal: Consensus on magnitude and character of the challenge and potential solutions

Enrollment up 3,100 since 2006

- What's happening now:
  - From a 7-year low in 2006, ACPS enrollment has increased by over 3,100 students (31%).
  - Most growth so far: elementary schools (+41%, or 69% of all growth in enrollment.)
  - Middle schools seeing increases now
  - High school impacts expected in 2017
- Also happening in Arlington, Fairfax and Montgomery Counties

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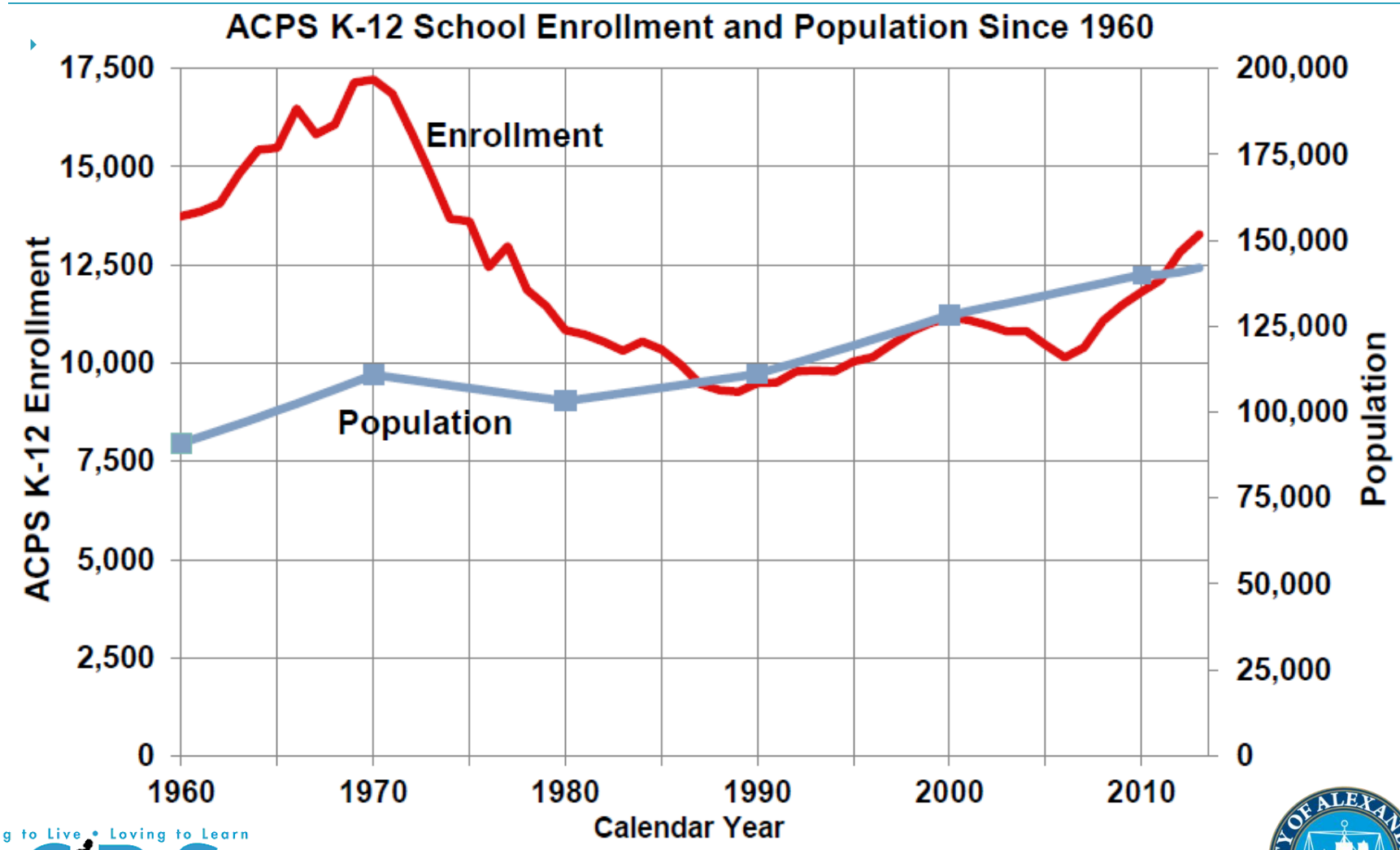
Examining enrollment growth

- Questions:
  - Will these years of growth be followed by years of declining enrollment, as has happened in the past?
  - Or is this a “new normal” in which growth continues for an extended period?
- To answer:
  - Examine sources and characteristics of recent growth
  - Put growth into context (long term, regional)
  - Study factors/trends that could spur or limit enrollment growth

School enrollment and population since 1960



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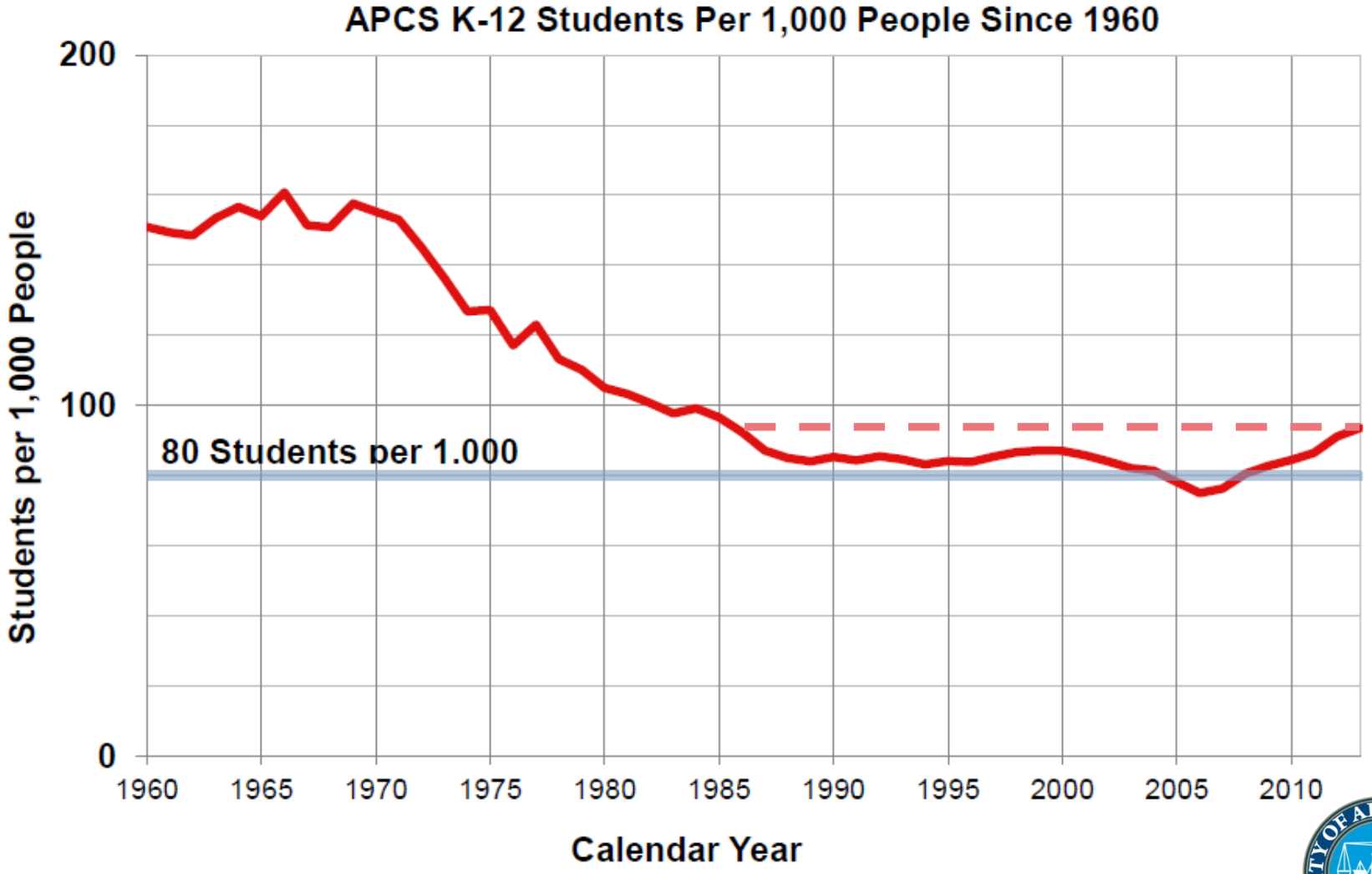
School enrollment, compared to population, was declining for 35+ years – until 2007



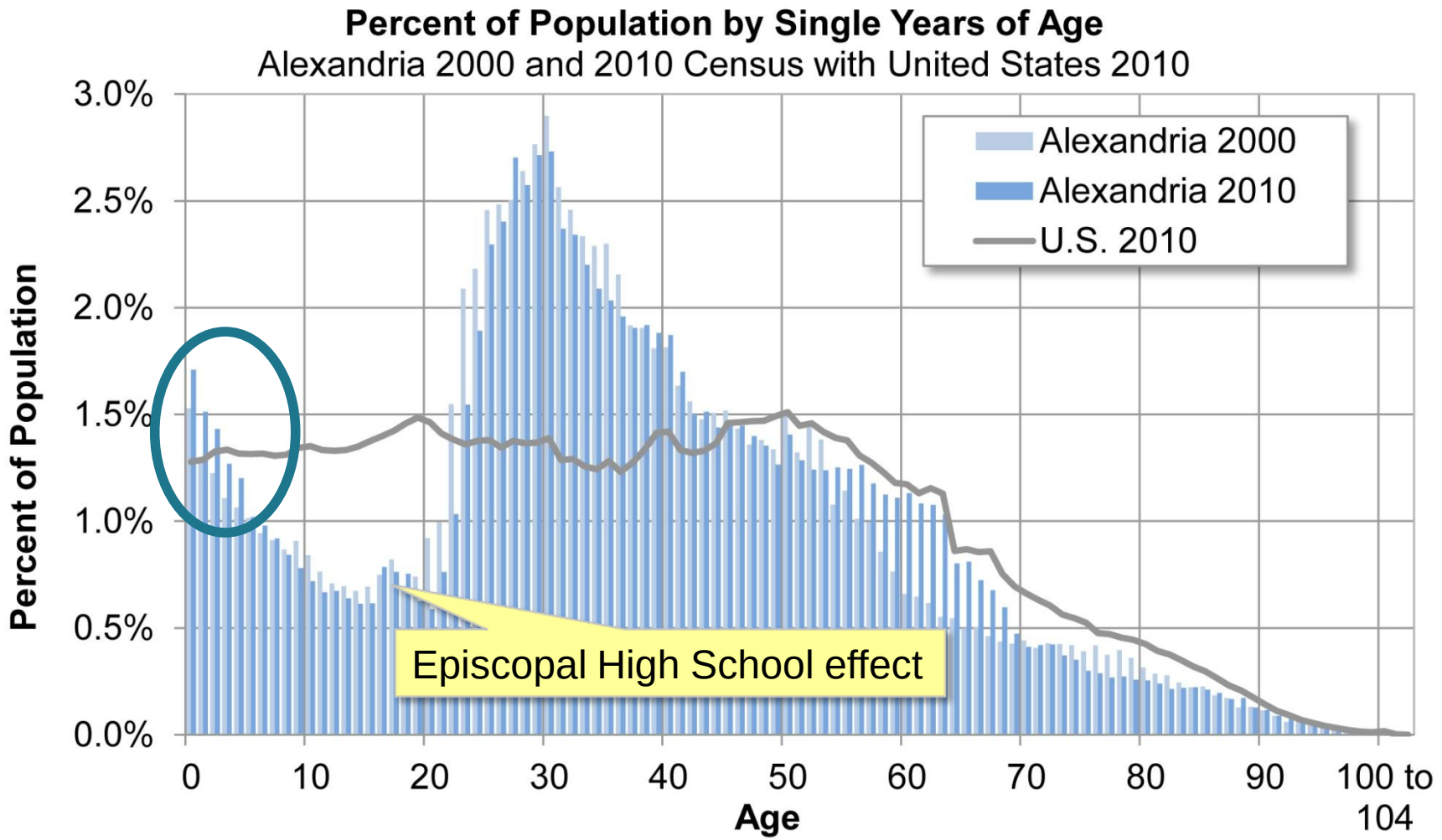
Estimating future enrollment

- Births, and share of births that become kindergarten students five years later (**kindergarten capture**)
- Share of students moving from one grade to the next in each grade (**cohort survival**)
- Development (**student generation rates for housing**)

Affected by

- Suitability/desirability of Alexandria for families with children
- Economics (Jobs, housing market)
- New development and redevelopment
- School reputation and alternatives

Alexandria's age profile



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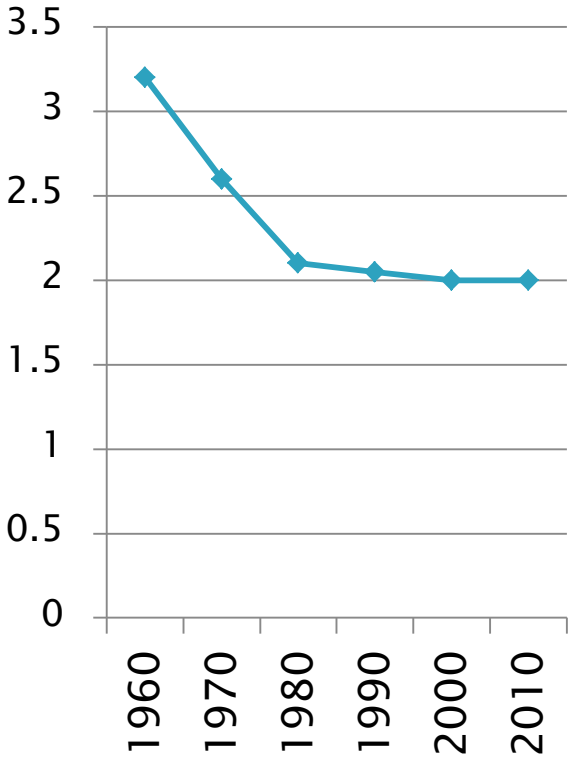
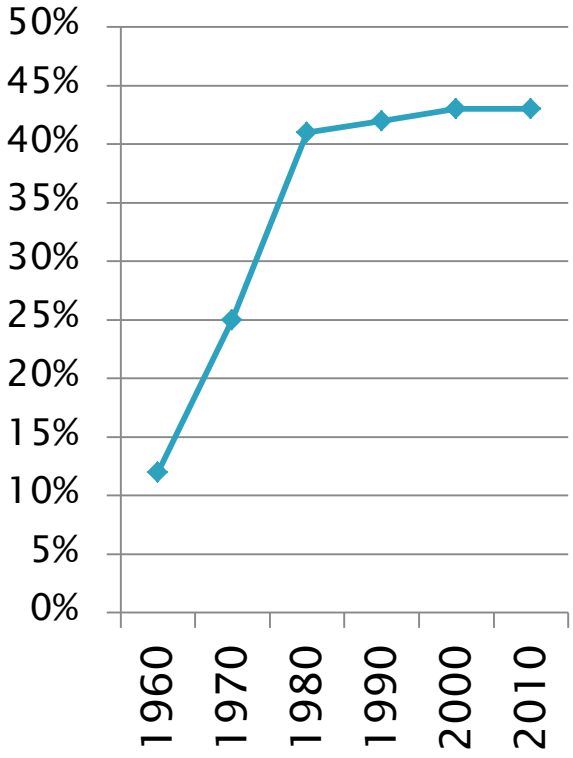
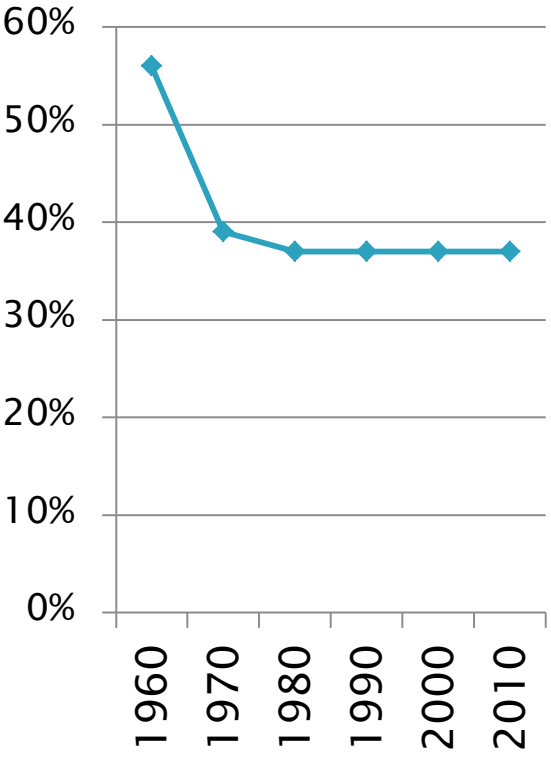
Factors affecting the size of Alexandria's school-age population



Low household size



More single person households



Low percentage of single family homes

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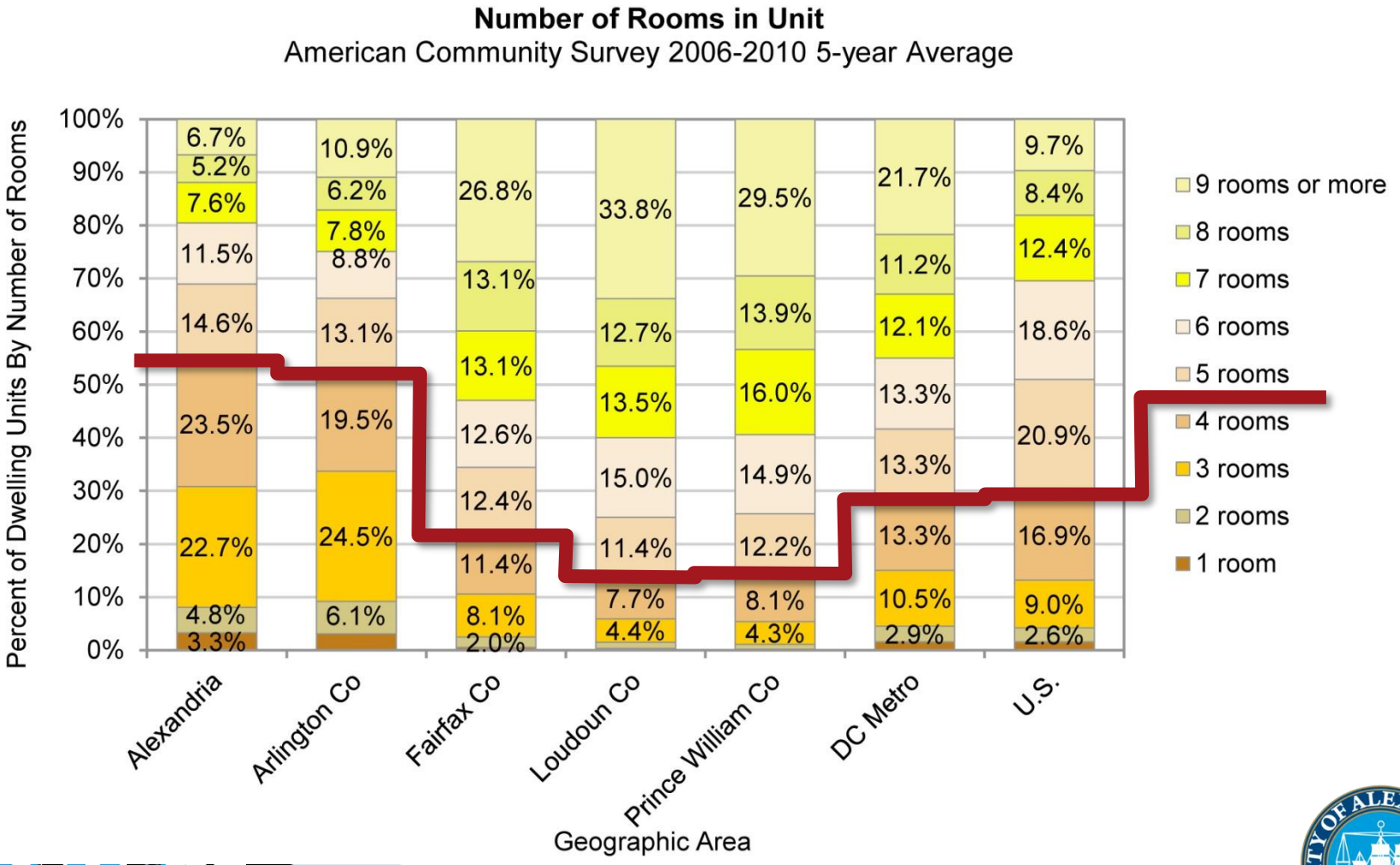
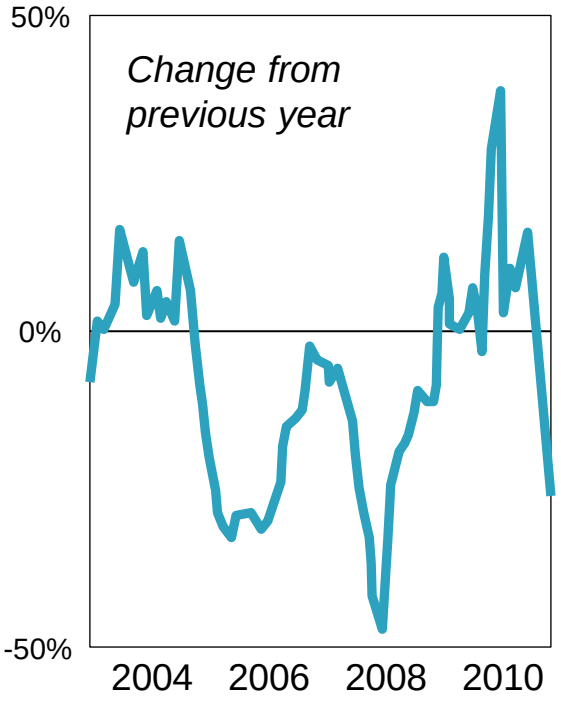
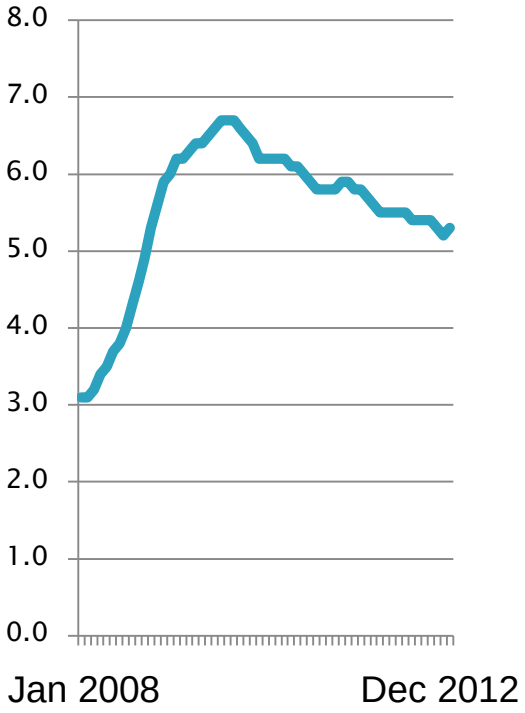
More than half of Alexandria's housing stock has 4 rooms or less



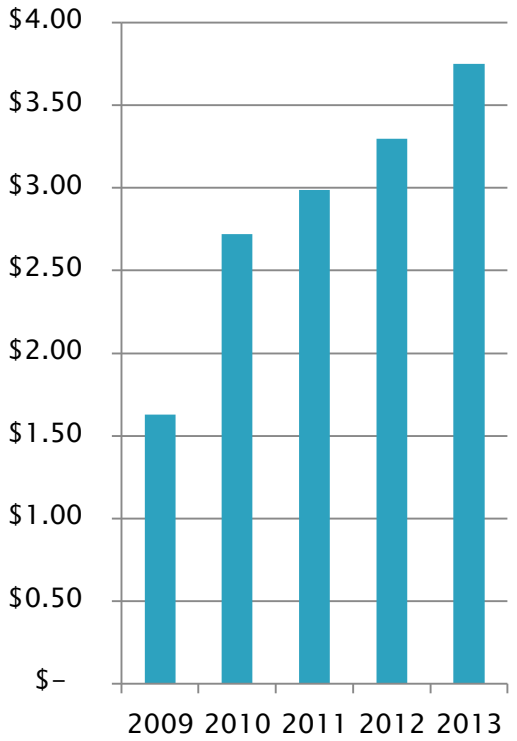
Several factors reduced families ability to move out of the City beginning in 2007



Home sales fell



Unemployment rate rose



Gas prices rose

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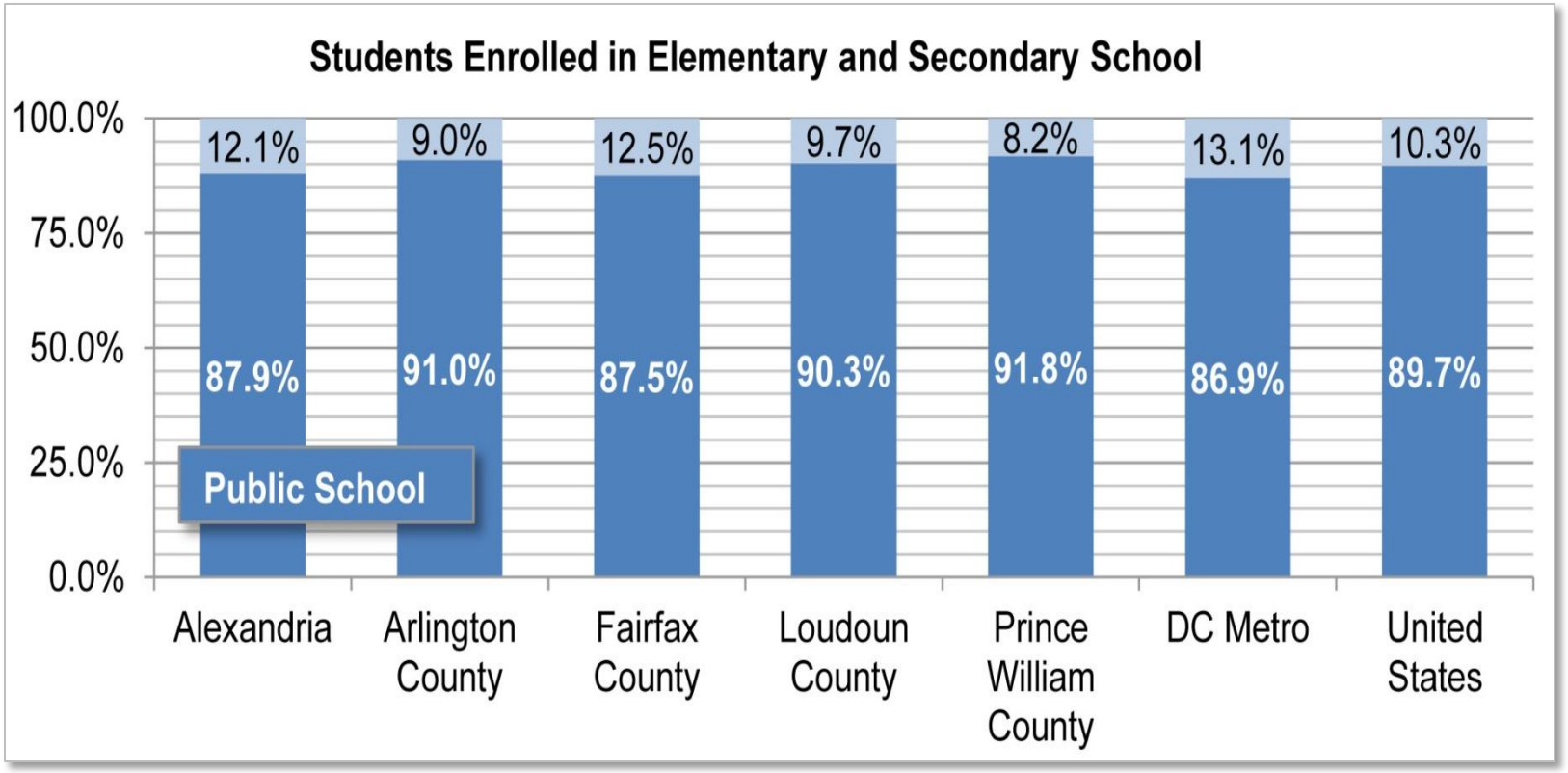
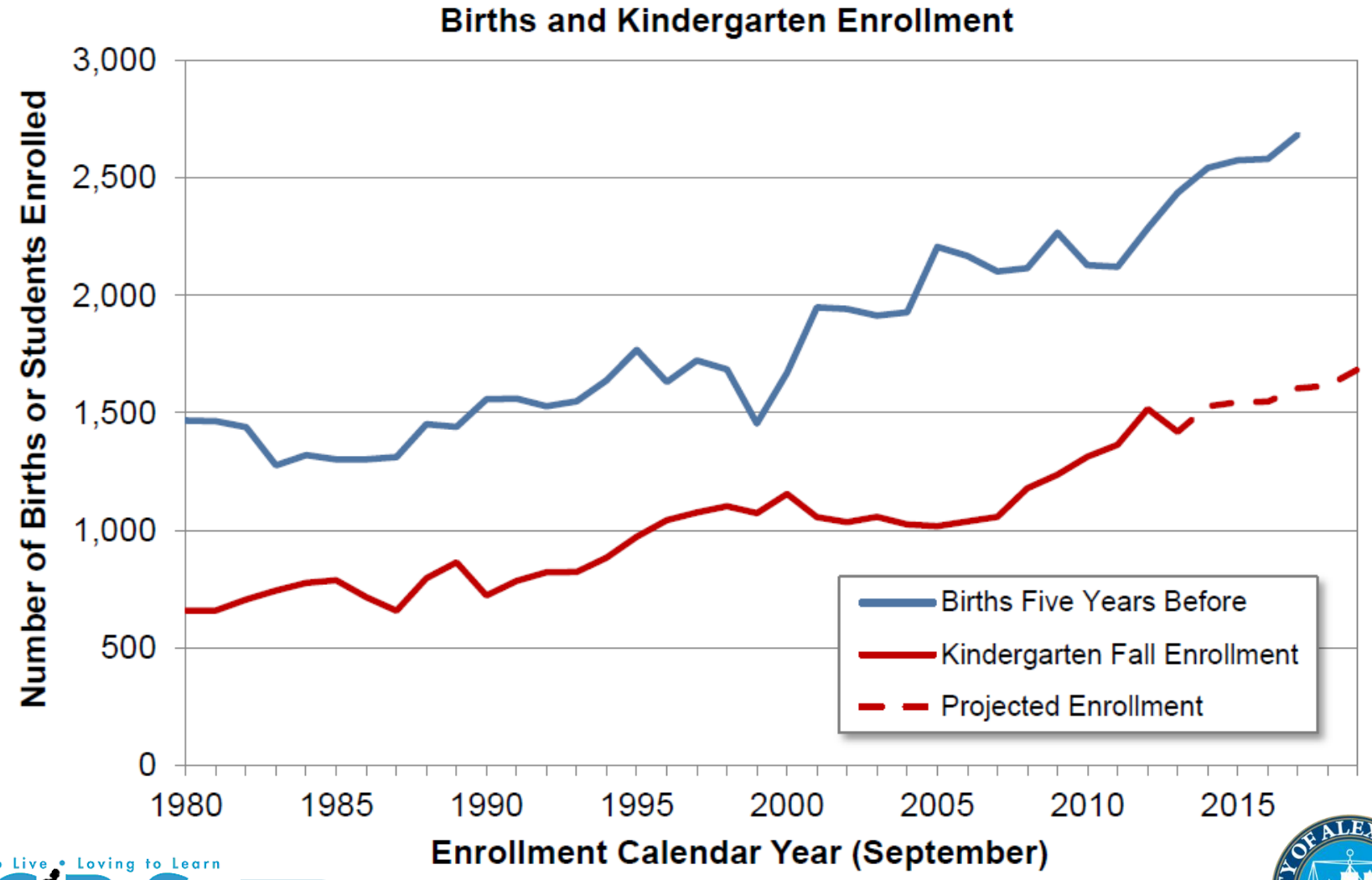
12.1% of Alexandria's children enrolled in school attend private school



American Community Survey 2006-2010 5-year average data, corrected for residential high school population for Alexandria only.

The number of births in the city is going up, as is kindergarten enrollment



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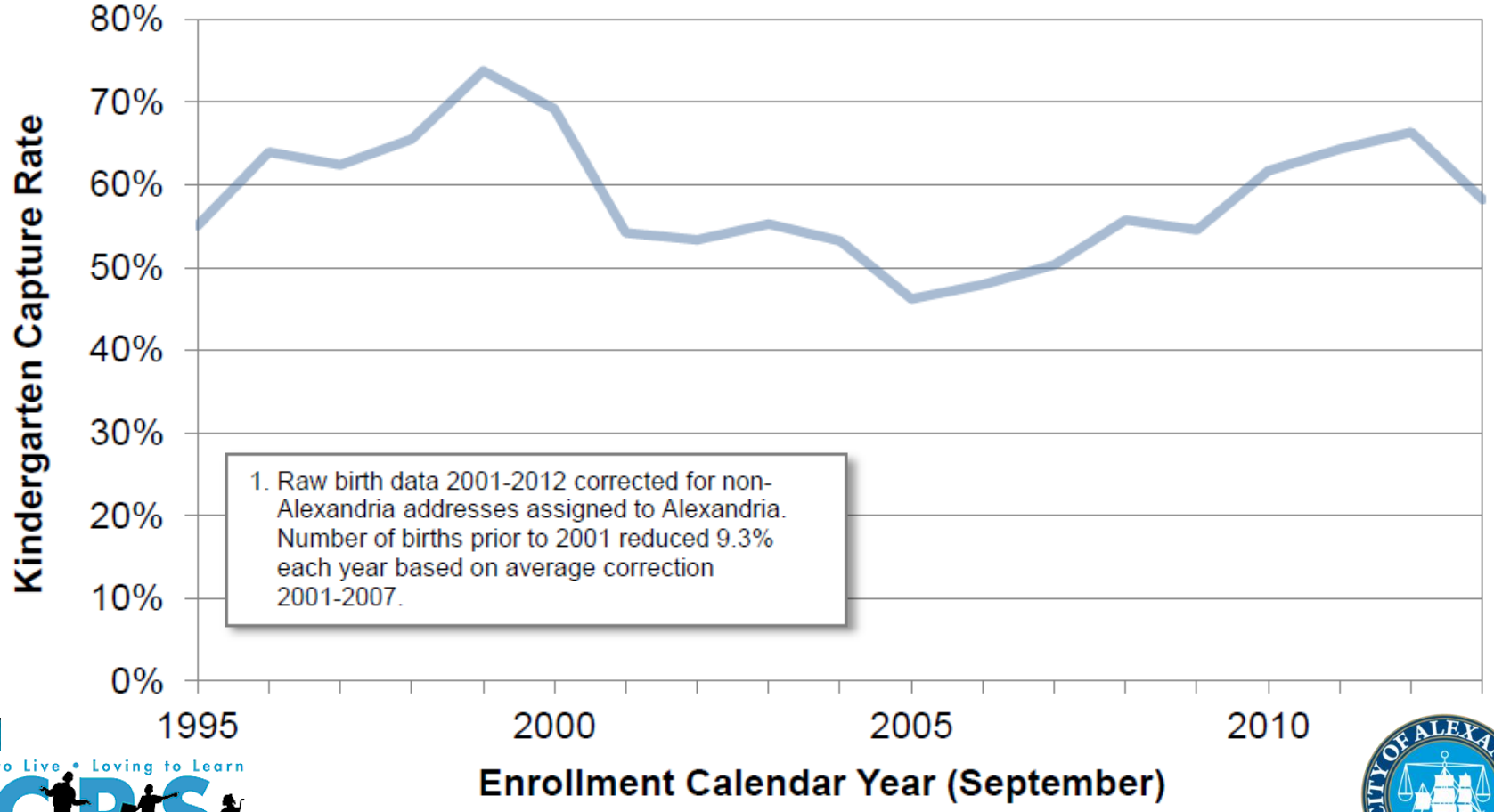
Our "kindergarten capture" rate has been increasing. Has it peaked?

What percentage of the children born in Alexandria attend Alexandria kindergarten 5 years later?



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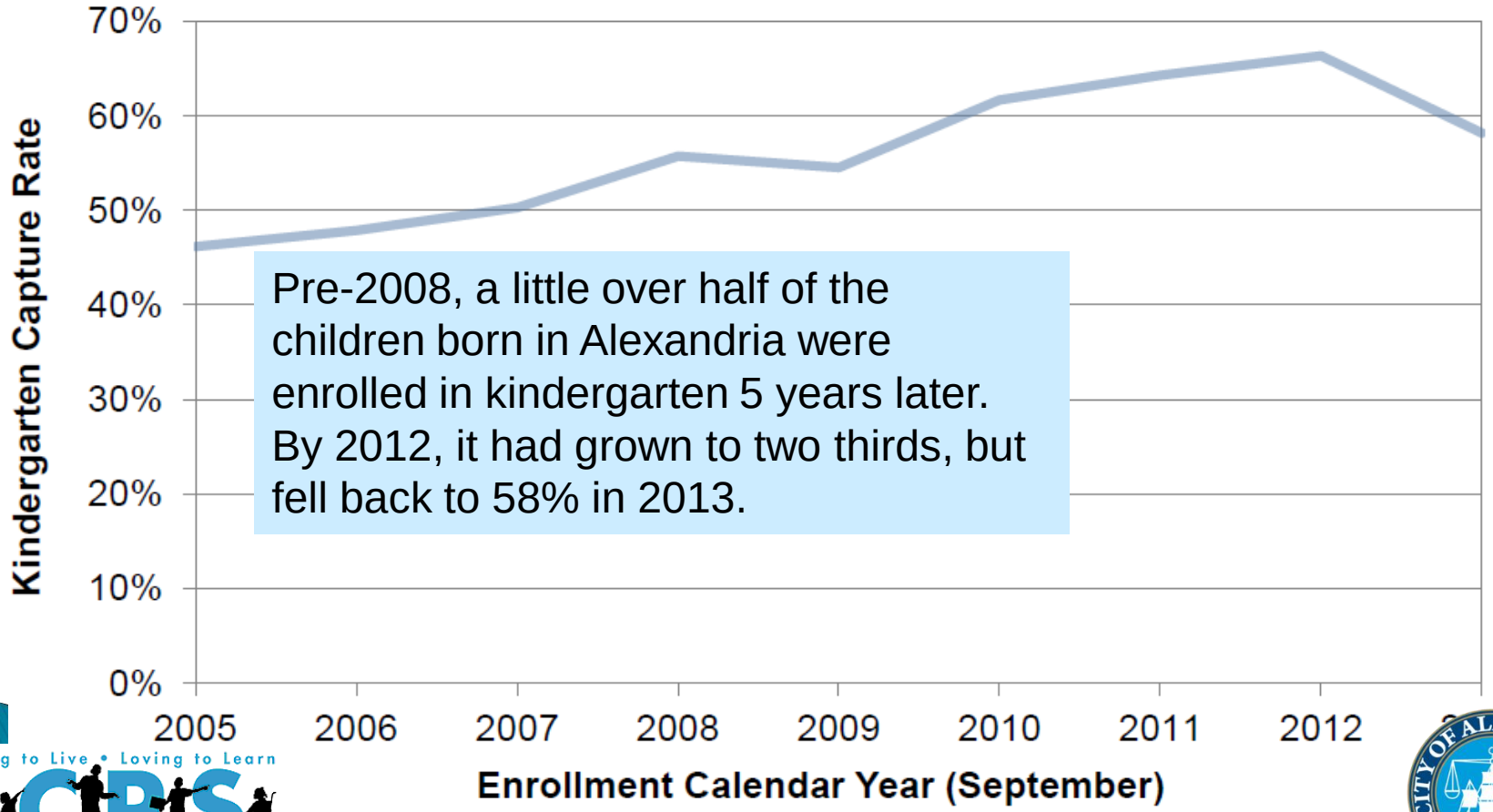

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More students are continuing on to the next grade

What is a "Cohort Survival" rate? It tracks the number of students continuing from one grade to the next. Example:

Grade	2010	2011
K	118	121
1	110	116
Cohort Survival from K to 1st		**98%**

	Average Cohort Survival		
	Elem.	**Middle**	**High**
Pre 2007	93.2%	93.5%	95.1%
Post 2007	97.8%	97.6%	99.8%
Difference	+4.6%	+4.0%	+4.7%

Since 2007, the cohort survival rate has increased at ALL levels

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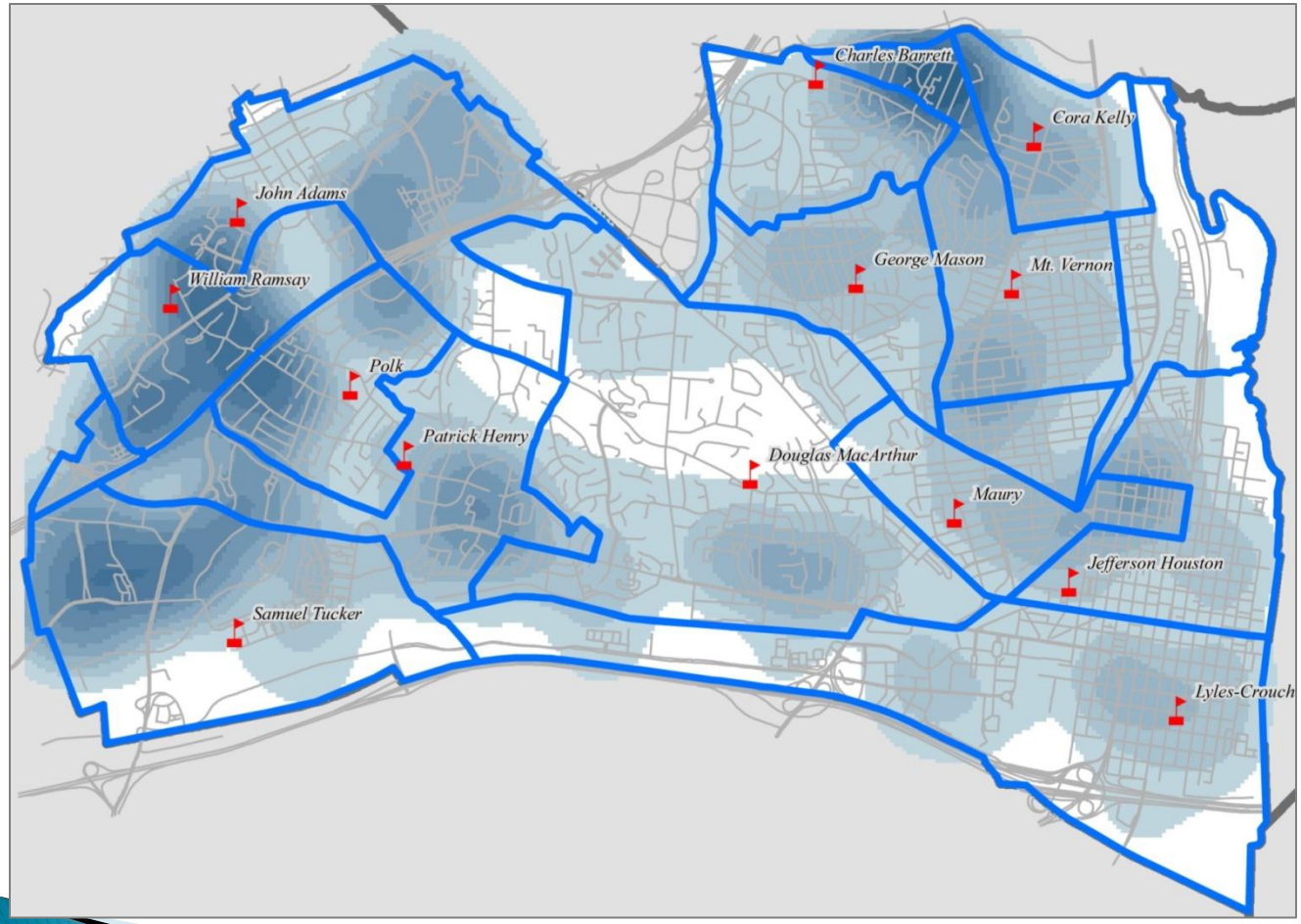
Growth in student enrollment is from existing housing



Concentrations of students new to the system for the 2012-2013 school year

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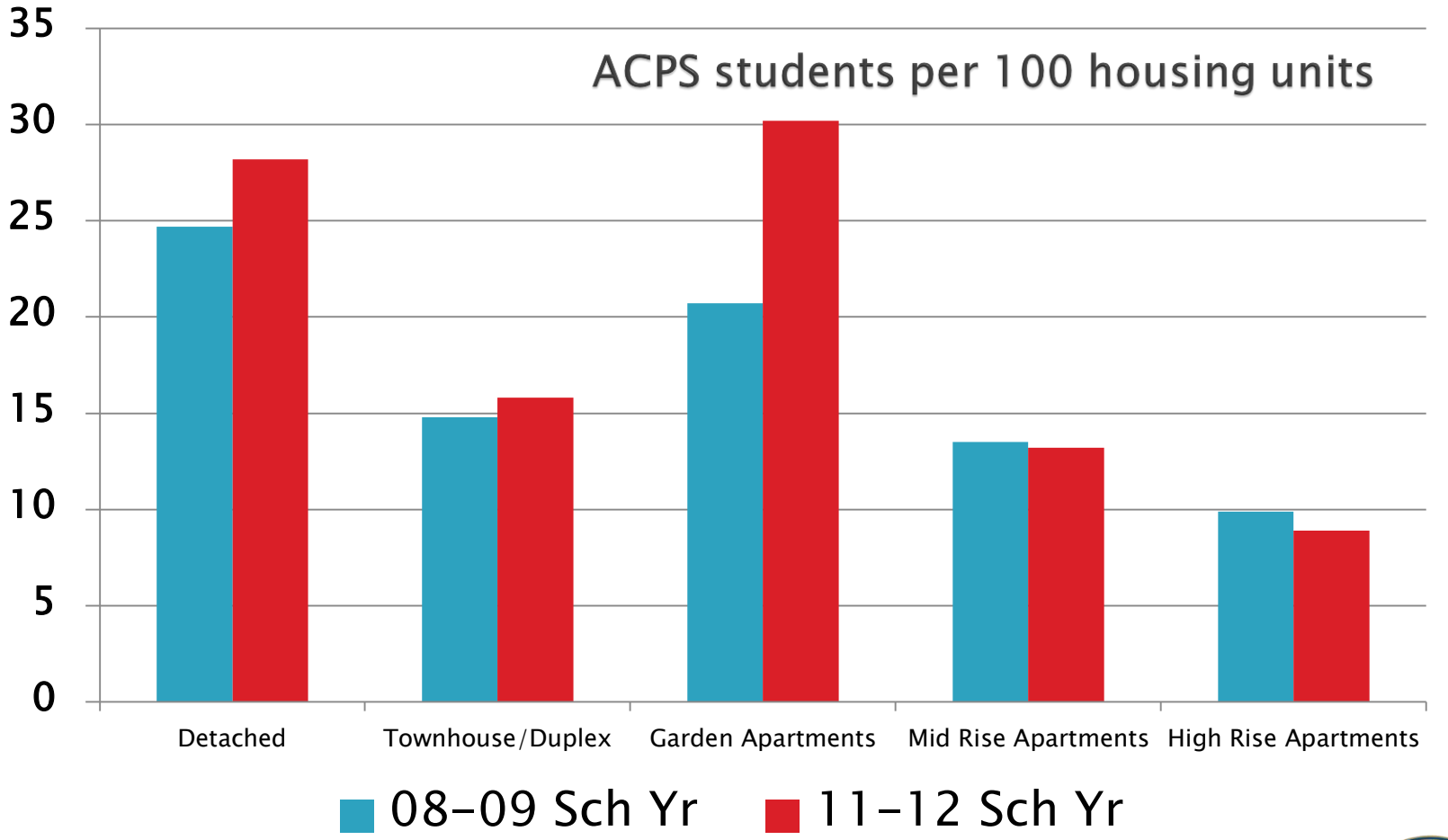
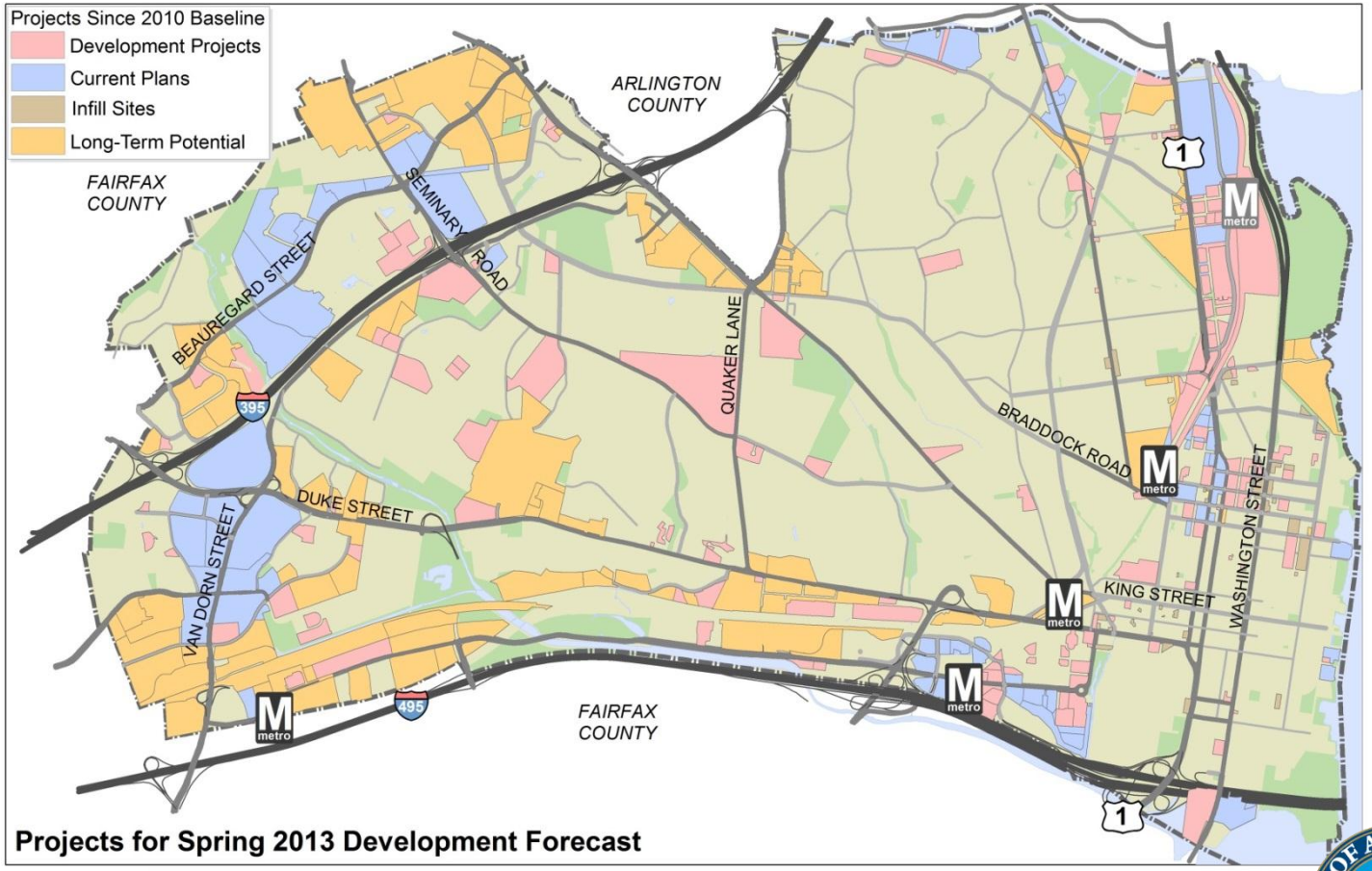
Growth in enrollment is from single-family and gardens, but not mid- and high-rise



Impact of future development

Forecasts include all planned and approved development as well as estimates of infill development and long-term potential.



Projects for Spring 2013 Development Forecast

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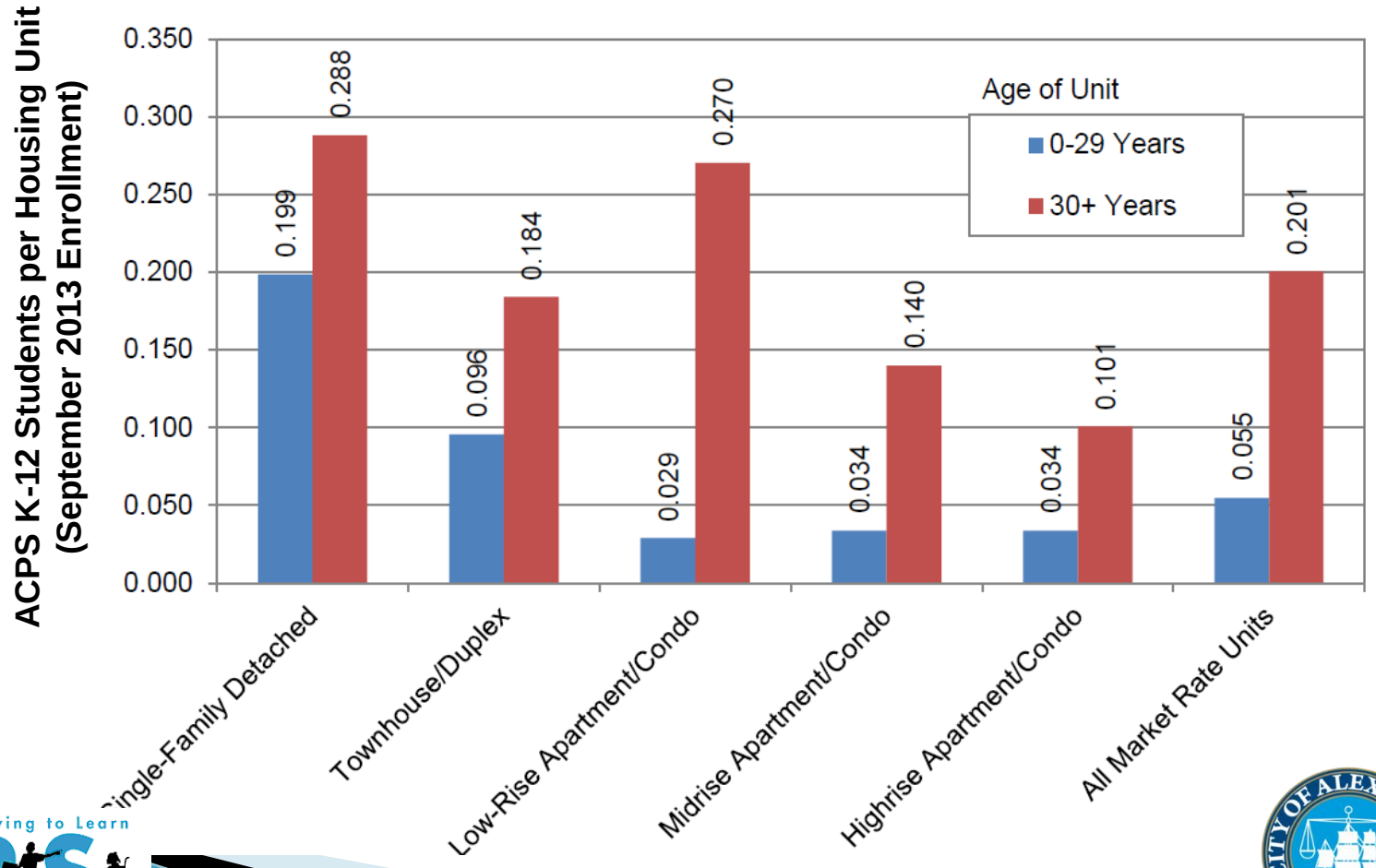
Impact of future development

To estimate students from new development, we will apply the student generation rates for housing built in the past 30 years.



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Impact of future development

Students estimated from planned development and redevelopment, 2010-2020

	2010-15	2015-20
Townhouse	74	22
Garden apartment	-63	-274
Mid-rise apartment	103	85
High-rise apartment	-4	40
Total	110	-127

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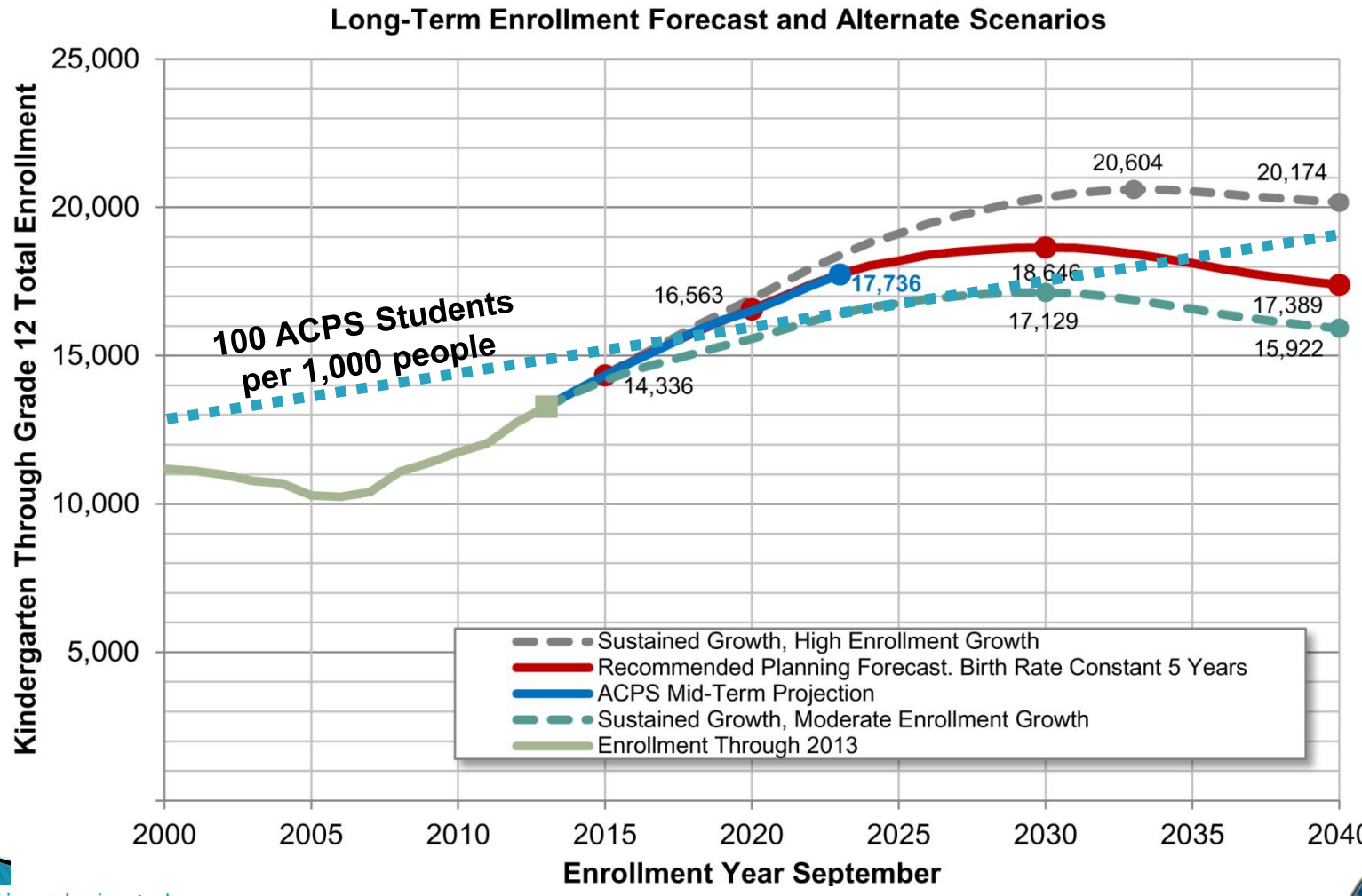
Summary of key trends

- The latest data for key indicators are continuing to show growth
  - More children being born in Alexandria, but the increase is moderating
  - The share of children born in Alexandria entering kindergarten five years later fell in 2013 for the first time since 2009
  - More of them staying in Alexandria schools after kindergarten…through high school.

Long-Term Forecast



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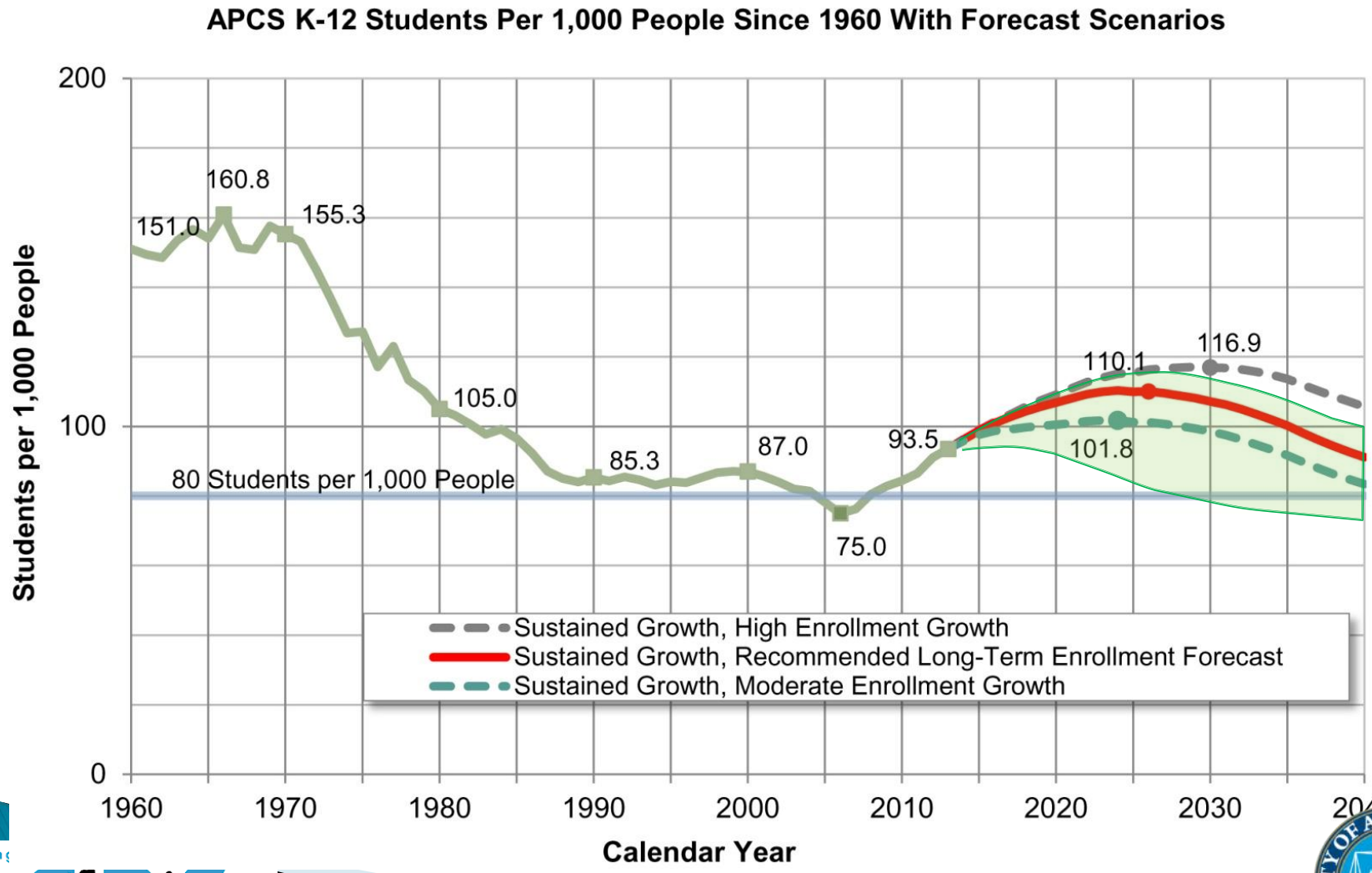
Reality Check: Students per 1000 people



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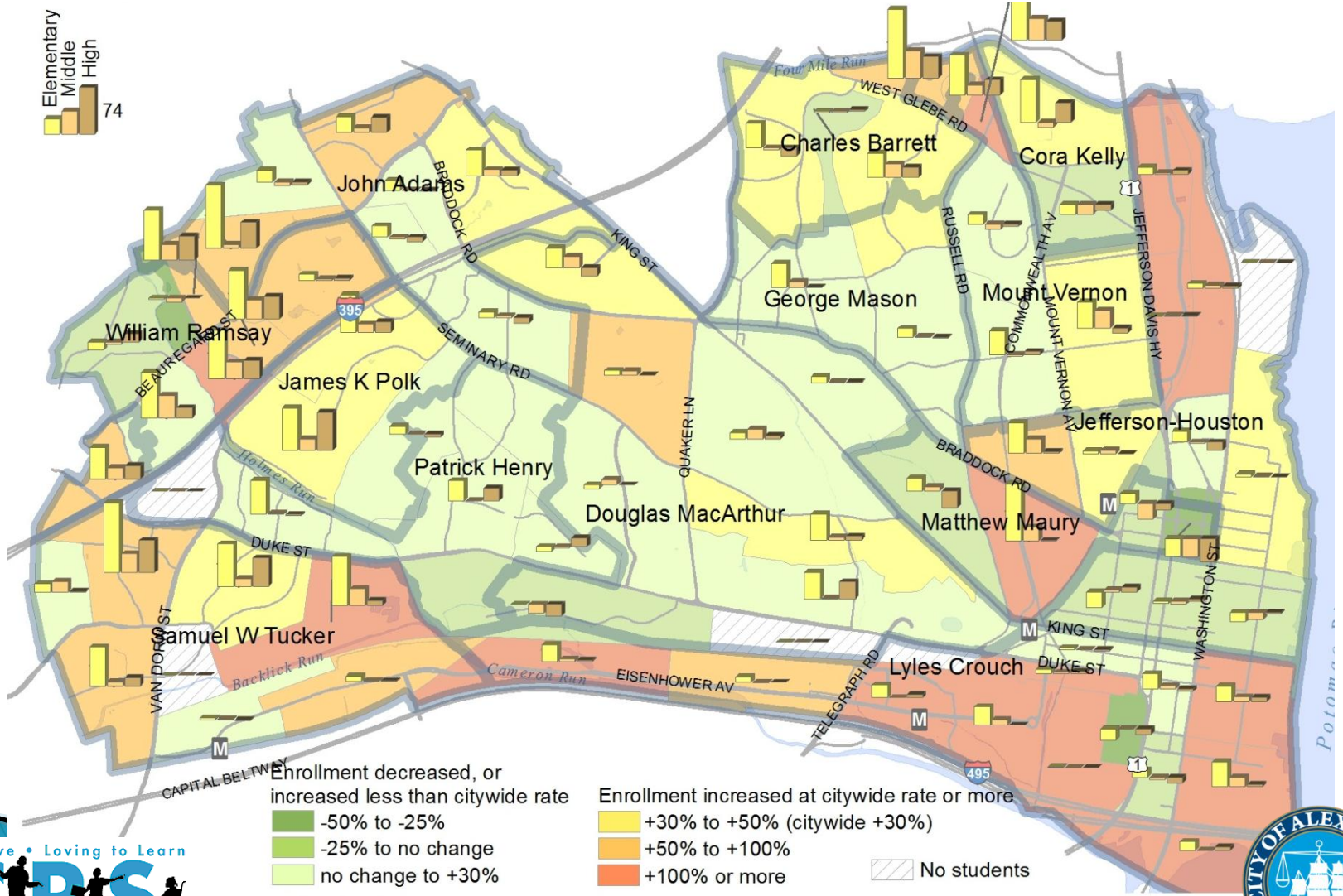
Small Area Analysis

Change in Number of Students by School Level, 2006-2013



Without action, forecast results in classroom deficits in all areas of the City

Fiscal Year	Central	East	West
FY14	(2.5)	8	(1.5)
FY15	(2.5)	1.5	(6.0)
FY16	(4.0)	(8.0)	(11.0)
FY17	(7.0)	(13.5)	(19.0)
FY18	(20.0)	(27.0)	(41.0)
FY19	(23.5)	(33.5)	(53.0)

Table shows number of classrooms needed to accommodate forecast growth. Does not include possible capacity from construction projects (funded or proposed), class size changes, or other initiatives.

- Central: C. Barrett, D. MacArthur, G. Mason
- East: C. Kelly, J.-Houston, L.-Crouch, M. Maury, Mt. Vernon
- West: J.K. Polk, J. Adams, P. Henry, S. Tucker, W. Ramsay

Capacity Projects– FY14

- Capacity Projects Approved for FY2014 (began July 1, 2013)
  - James K. Polk – Second Story Modular Classrooms (4.5)
  - Patrick Henry – New/Expanded building (A/E begins in FY14, will determine classrooms and core facilities to be provided)
  - Charles Barrett – Second Story Modular Classrooms (4), parking lot expansion
  - George Mason – Expand cafeteria
  - Matthew Maury – Additional Classrooms (2)
  - Douglas MacArthur – Additional Classroom (1), cafeteria expansion

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Capacity Projects- ACPS identified potential for FY15 and beyond

- Additional Classrooms
  - George Mason – Additional classrooms FY15
  - James K. Polk- Additional wing FY15
  - Patrick Henry – Per analysis FY14, avail FY 16, FY17
  - T.C. Minnie Howard- Expansion FY17
- Core Space Expansion
  - Charles Barrett – Cafeteria Expansion FY15
  - Matthew Maury – Parking lot expansion FY15
- New Facility
  - New School, Site TBD FY16
  - Cora Kelly- New Building FY18

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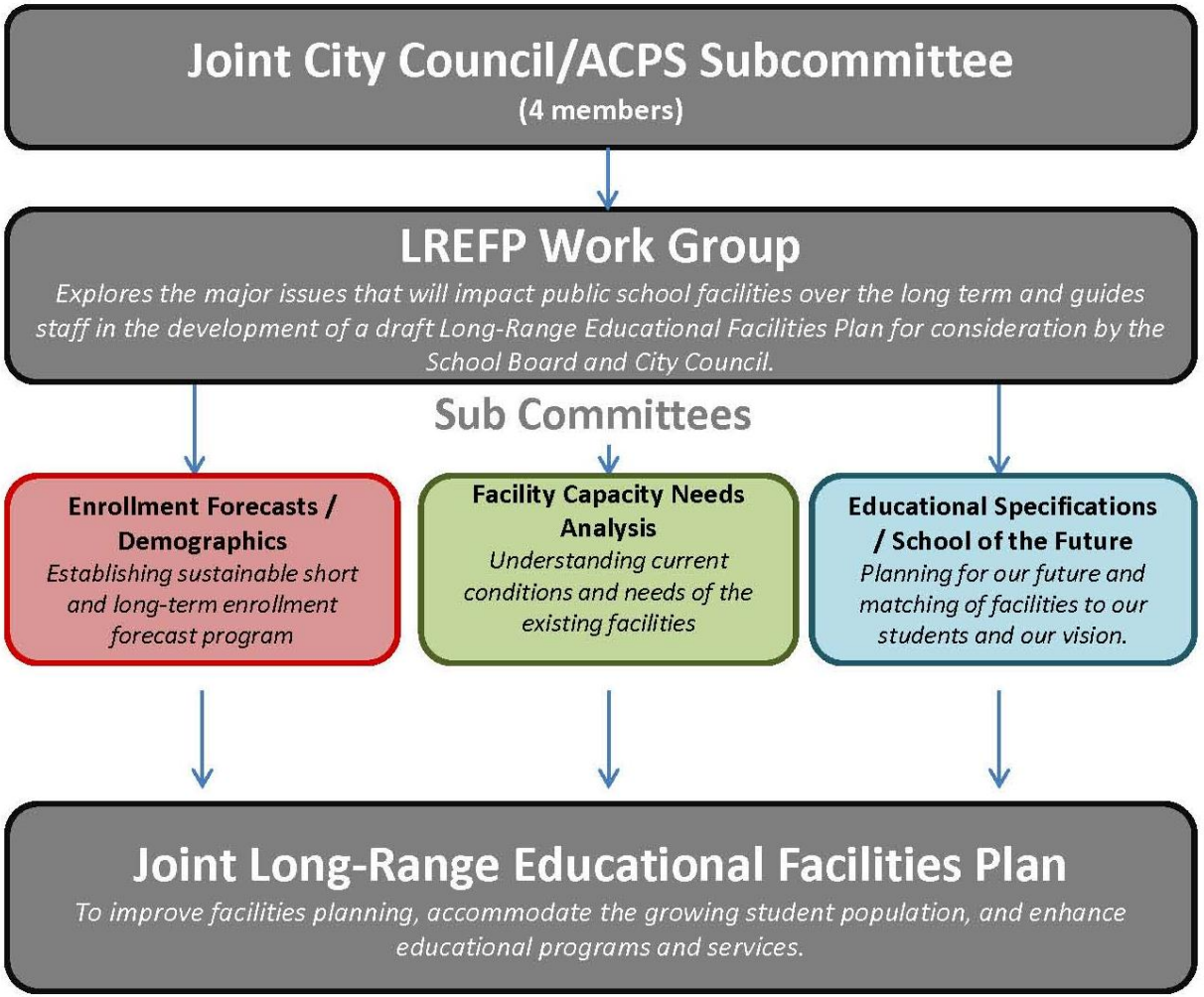
Predictors: affect on enrollment can be quantified and forecast	**Future Kindergarten Capture Rate**	**Future Cohort Survival Rate**	**Student Generation Rates**
Housing stock - affordability	X	X	X
Job growth	X	X	X
Birth rates	X		
Housing stock - age of unit	X		X
Net migration - who is moving?	X	X	
Public school participation rate	X	X	X
Household profiles: income, race/ethnicity, country of origin	X	X	X
Historic cohort survival rate		X	
Housing stock - size and type of unit	X	X	X
Influencers: can boost or depress enrollment but difficult to quantify or forecast	**Future Kindergarten Capture Rate**	**Future Cohort Survival Rate**	**Student Generation Rates**
New school buildings/facilities	X	X	X
Reputation	X	X	X
Programmatic initiatives	X	X	X
Availability of alternatives to Alexandria public schools	X	X	X

Long Range Educational Facilities Plan

- 19 member Work Group jointly created by Superintendent and City Manager
- 15-18 months timeline
- Opportunities for Input
  - Quarterly work group meetings
  - Subcommittees (enrollment, facilities, education specifications)
  - Open public meetings at key points in the process
  - Specific discussions with subject matter experts

Long Range Educational Facilities Plan



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Monday, June 23

Planning & Zoning

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Long Range Educational Facilities Plan

The City of Alexandria and the Alexandria City Public School System (ACPS) are jointly developing a work program for a Long Range Educational Facilities Plan to improve facilities planning, accommodate the growing student population, and enhance educational programs and services.

As part of the program, a 19 member work group was established and is comprised of members from the community, ACPS School Board, City Council, Campagna Center, and the PTA Council, supported by ACPS and City staff. The workgroup meets on a regular basis, generally quarterly, to explore the major issues that will impact public school facilities over the long term and to guide staff in the development of a draft Long Range Educational Facilities Plan for consideration by the School Board and City Council.

The public is invited to all meetings associated with the project and is encouraged to stay informed about upcoming meetings through eNews.

- Work Group Members
- Joint COA/ACPS Work Program
- LREFP Work Program Supplement
- LREFP Update - October 15, 2012

Please visit the links below for information presented during previous work group and subcommittee meetings.

For more information, please contact Laurel Hammig, Facilities Planner & GIS Specialist, ACPS, 703/461-4168 or Karl Moritz, Deputy Director, Planning and Zoning, City of Alexandria, 703/746-3804.

www.alexandriava.gov/planning

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Questions