

Capacity Calculations Methodology

Albemarle County Public Schools · October 2026



School Board Policy FB (Facilities Planning) calls for an annual reassessment of school capacities. Capacity formulas are reviewed and updated each year for comprehensive elementary, middle, and high schools.

The formulas start with the physical number of classrooms and auxiliary spaces in each building. Each school's planned instructional programs and staffing are then applied to estimate its program capacity.

How capacity is used. Program capacity is compared with projected enrollment. Under Policy FB, the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee begins to consider construction or redistricting options as projected enrollment approaches or exceeds 95% of program capacity.

At a glance

Step	Elementary	Middle and high
1. Count rooms	Classrooms of about 600 sq. ft. or larger, excluding the gym	Classrooms, including gyms
2. Subtract	Art and music classrooms; auxiliary deficit	Special education resource, Talent Development, A-Base, B-Base, teacher planning, and health rooms
3. Multiply	C-Base special education: 8 per room K–5: based on budgeted staffing	C-Base special education: 8 per room Gym: 90 · Auxiliary gym: 30 Academic: based on budgeted staffing
4. Add	Preschool capacity	—
5. Adjust	—	Utilization factor: 12.5% reduction

Elementary school capacity

- **Room total:** the number of classrooms of about 600 square feet or larger, excluding the gymnasium.
- **Reductions:** art, music and talent development classrooms, plus any auxiliary deficit.

- **Auxiliary deficit:** the classroom space needed to make up for any shortage of smaller auxiliary spaces. Smaller spaces are inventoried to make sure each school has room for the following staff and programs:
 - **All schools:** physical education office, Extended Day Enrichment Programs office, teacher lounge, conference room, kindergarten kitchen, mental health support specialist, psychologist, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language pathology, mental health services, counseling, Talent Development, and a second assistant principal office
 - **Special education:** A-Base, B-Base, and special education generalist
 - **Tiered services:** intervention, reading specialist, English learner, Title I, and family support
- **Student multipliers** are applied to the remaining classrooms: C-Base special education classes at 8 students per classroom, and K–5 classrooms at a multiplier derived from each school's budgeted staffing.
- **Preschool capacity** is added based on the number of planned preschool classrooms and the number of students served in each. Multipliers may vary by type of preschool program. Preschool capacity may shift if programs move between schools to make room for K–5 classrooms.

$$\text{Elementary program capacity} = (\text{remaining classrooms} \times \text{student multipliers}) + \text{preschool capacity}$$

Middle and high school capacity

- **Room total** includes gymnasiums.
- **Reductions** are made for special education resource, Talent Development, A-Base, B-Base, teacher planning, and health rooms.
- **Student multipliers** are applied to the remaining rooms: C-Base special education classes at 8 students per classroom, the gym at 90 students, the auxiliary gym at 30 students, and academic classrooms at a multiplier derived from each school's budgeted staffing.
- **Utilization factor:** calculated capacity is reduced by 12.5% to account for scheduling complexity and variation in class sizes. This is the same as using each room 7 of 8 periods.

$$\text{Middle and high program capacity} = (\text{remaining rooms} \times \text{student multipliers}) \times 87.5\%$$