## School Capacity and Utilization


" Capacity is simply how many occupants the building can support when the restrictions of the program of studies is applied"

## School Capacity and Utilization

## We Measure Capacity in Two Ways



## DESIGN CAPACITY

When we evaluate a school for capacity we initially count the spaces as they were originally designed.


## PROGRAM CAPACITY

The program capacity indicates the current use of each space.

Mandatory learning spaces such as primary , elementary and self-contained special education classrooms; core (required) classes in middle and high school

Spaces which offer support to the students during the day such as: cafeteria, toilets, locker rooms and media center

Locally mandated enrichment spaces such as: gymnasium, music and art in elementary schools; these are considered electives in high and middle schools


Spaces which support the administrative staff such as: offices, workrooms, and storage

## School Capacity and Utilization

## Elementary School Capacity Formula

Total number of primary classrooms
Total number of elementary classrooms
x class size ratio
x class size ratio
Total number of self-contained classrooms x class size ratio

## School Capacity and Utilization

Standard Elementary School
Figure illustrates layout before identifying room use


## Fairfax County Public Schools

## School Capacity and Utilization

Standard Elementary School
Figure illustrates layout after identifying primary (kindergarten, $1^{\text {st }}$, and $2^{\text {nd }}$ grades) and elementary $3^{\text {rd }}, 4^{\text {th }}, 5^{\text {th }}$, and $6^{\text {th }}$ grades) classrooms.


FIRST FLOOR


SECOND FLOOR

## School Capacity and Utilization

Figure illustrates layout after identifying supplemental uses (Examples include, but are not limited to art, gym)

## Standard Elementary School



FIRST FLOOR


SECOND FLOOR

## School Capacity and Utilization

Figure illustrates layout after identifying support spaces

## Standard Elementary School

(Examples include, but are not limited to bathrooms, cafeteria, library, and SACC)


FIRST FLOOR


SECOND FLOOR

## School Capacity and Utilization

Figure illustrates layout after identifying administrative spaces
(Examples include, but are not limited to main office, instructional offices, teacher lounges, and work rooms)

## Standard Elementary School



FIRST FLOOR


SECOND FLOOR

## Elementary School Capacity Calculation

Using the typical school as an example; here is how capacity would be calculated

14 primary classrooms $x 25$ class size ratio $=350$
$\underline{22}$ elementary classrooms $\times 28$ class size ratio $=616$
Total School Capacity
$=966$

## School Capacity and Utilization

Figure illustrates layout where all spaces are used as designed. The Design Capacity matches the Program Capacity.

Standard Elementary

| Learning Space | Design Capacity | Program Capacity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Kindergarten | 100 | 100 |
| 1st Grade | 125 | 125 |
| 2nd Grade | 125 | 125 |
| 3rd Grade | 168 | 168 |
| 4th Grade | 140 | 140 |
| 5th Grade | 168 | 168 |
| 6th Grade | 140 | 140 |
| Capacity Change | 0 | 0 |
| Capacity | 966 | 966 |



CORE-ELEMENTARY

# School Capacity and Utilization 

## Program Capacity Impacts

The previous slides demonstrated the capacity of a school absent special programs or other uses. The following slide will display the impact of program uses to classrooms in a school. Although an elementary school is being used as the model - the impact is similar across all school types.

## School Capacity and Utilization

Figure illustrates layout where two full-size classrooms have been identified for use as special education program support in red. This lowers program capacity.

## Program Capacity Impact

School with Special Education

| Learning Space | Design Capacity | Program Capacity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Kindergarten | 100 | 100 |
| 1st Grade | 125 | 125 |
| 2nd Grade | 125 | 75 |
| 3rd Grade | 168 | 168 |
| 4th Grade | 140 | 140 |
| 5th Grade | 168 | 168 |
| 6th Grade | 140 | 140 |
| Capacity Change | 0 | -50 |
| Capacity | 96 | 916 |

CORE - PRIMARY


SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT

# School Capacity and Utilization 

## Title 1 and K-3 Cap Capacity Impacts

The previous slides demonstrated the impact of special education on capacity. The following slide will display the impact when the school is Title 1 or has a K-3 Cap. Title 1 or K-3 Cap schools limit the number of students per teacher. The floorplan will be the same, but the number of students per room, reflected by the program capacity ratio, will be limited.

Title I is a federal program. Schools are identified for Title I funds based on the percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

K-3 Primary Class Size Reduction Program is a Virginia Department of Education initiative to maximize class size and pupil-teacher ratio. This varies per school.

## School Capacity and Utilization

The Title 1 and K-3 class size caps lower the class size ratio. For this example a cap of 22 students per class is used. This lowers the total program capacity.

Program Capacity Impact

TITLE 1 SCHOOL

| Learning Space | Design Capacity | Program Capacity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Kindergarten | 100 | 84 |
| 1st Grade | 125 | 105 |
| 2nd Grade | 125 | 105 |
| 3rd Grade | 168 | 126 |
| 4th Grade | 140 | 140 |
| 5th Grade | 168 | 168 |
| 6th Grade | 140 | 140 |
| Capacity Change | 0 | -98 |
| Capacity | 966 | 868 |

CORE - PRIMARY



CORE- ELEMENTARY

## Middle School Capacity

Middle school capacity is calculated in a much different manner than elementary or high schools. The primary reason is that the rooms are allotted based upon a Team Teaching method - taking into account the FCPS instructional methodology.

## School Capacity and Utilization

## Middle School Capacity Calculation Formula

Step \# 1 - Determine Teams

- Math classroom
- Science classroom
- English classroom
- Social Studies classroom
$=1$ Team
$=$ School capacity


## Why are the Electives not counted in Middle School Capacity?

For example, a typical student's day is comprised of the following:

1. English (core)
2. Math (core)
3. Science (core)
4. Social Studies (core)
5. PE (core)
6. Elective \#1
7. Elective \#2

Since a middle school is taught in teams, the number of students are limited by the total teams within the core. The number of electives have no bearing upon the capacity calculation.

## Fairfax County Public Schools School Capacity and Utilization

Figure illustrated layout before identifying room use


## School Capacity and Utilization

Figure illustrates layout after identifying $7^{\text {th }}$ and $8^{\text {th }}$ grade English, Math, Science, Social Studies, gym and health rooms

## Standard Middle School



FIRST FLOOR


SECOND FLOOR

CORE - other

## Middle School Capacity

## Fairfax County Public Schools <br> School Capacity and Utilization

Figure illustrates layout after identifying support spaces
(Examples include, but are not limited to bathrooms, cafeteria, and library)

## Standard Middle School


$\square$ SUPPORT
Middle School Capacity

## Fairfax County Public Schools School Capacity and Utilization

Figure illustrates layout after identifying supplemental uses (Examples include, but are not limited to electives and technical education)

## Standard Middle School


$\square$ SUPPLEMENTAL

## Middle School Capacity

## School Capacity and Utilization

Figure illustrates layout after identifying administrative spaces (Examples include, but are not limited to main office, instructional offices, teacher lounges, and work rooms)

## Standard Middle School



ADMINISTRATIVE

Middle School Capacity

## Calculating the Capacity of our Standard Middle School

$5-7^{\text {th }}$ Grade Teams $\times 135$ per team ( 27 per class) $=675$

$5-8^{\text {th }}$ Grade Teams $\times 135$ per team ( 27 per class) $=675$

Total School Capacity

1,350

# School Capacity and Utilization 

## High School Capacity

Calculating the capacity of a high school is much different than an elementary or middle school. The most obvious reason is that elective or non-required learning spaces are counted in the capacity calculation.

The traditional method of calculating the capacity of a high school was to : multiply the \# of teaching spaces by a standard class size ratio (28) then by a Utilization Factor.

When we attempted to utilize this method it became apparent that the capacity would be too great for the facility. Therefore, the major challenge became how to account for electives?

## Space Utilization Factor

A high school is the only type of school in which a utilization factor is applied. For instance, our typical high schools operate on a 7 block (period) day. The standard capacity model assumes that a learning space will be used 6 out of 7 blocks or $85 \%$ of the time.

Although we agree that this factor should be applied to class types which are variable based on the population, applying it to elective spaces in conjunction with the core spaces results in overcrowding.

## Determining Elective Space Impact

A typical high school student will take the following:

1. English (core)
2. Math (core)
3. Science (core)
4. Social Studies (core) - leaving 3 electives
5. $\mathrm{PE}-\left(9^{\text {th }} \& 10^{\text {th }}\right.$ grade mandatory)
6. Foreign Language (up to 3 years required for college)
7. Leaving only one elective for more than $75 \%$ of the students

## School Capacity and Utilization

## Using the Appropriate Capacity Model

When we design a school the only variables are in the number of core, physical education and foreign language spaces for the target population. The quantity of elective spaces is the same regardless of the school size.

Therefore, when we apply a utilization factor to a high school's learning spaces the factors resemble the following:
class size (28) x 85\% utilization factor (required all 4 years)
Foreign Lang class size (28) x 85\% utilization factor (3 years required for college)
Phys Ed class size (28) x 75\% utilization factor (required for 2 years)
Elective class size (28) x $22.5 \%$ utilization factor (no requirement)

## School Capacity and Utilization

Figure illustrated layout before identifying room use


FIRST FLOOR
Standard High School


## School Capacity and Utilization

Figure illustrates layout after identifying English, Math, Science, and Social Studies


FIRST FLOOR


High School Capacity

## School Capacity and Utilization

Figure illustrates layout after identifying major electives (Examples include, foreign language, gym, and health)


FIRST FLOOR


## School Capacity and Utilization

Figure illustrates layout after identifying elective uses (Examples include, but are not limited to band, choir, dance, theatre, and technical education)


FIRST FLOOR

$\square$ ELECTIVES

## School Capacity and Utilization

Figure illustrates layout after identifying support spaces (Examples include, but are not limited to auditorium, bathrooms, cafeteria, and library)


FIRST FLOOR

$\square$ STUDENT SUPPORT
High School Capacity

## School Capacity and Utilization

Figure illustrates layout after identifying administrative spaces (Examples include, but are not limited to main office, instructional offices, teacher lounges, and work rooms)


FIRST FLOOR

Standard High School


ADMINISTRATIVE

## School Capacity and Utilization

## The Standard High School Capacity Calculation

| Learning Space | Quantity | x Class Size Ratio | $\mathbf{x}$ Utilization | $=$ Total Capacity |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| English* | 15 | 24 | $85 \%$ | 306 |
| Math | 15 | 28 | $85 \%$ | 357 |
| Science | 15 | 28 | $85 \%$ | 357 |
| Social Studies | 15 | 28 | $85 \%$ | 357 |
| Foreign Language | 15 | 28 | $85 \%$ | 357 |
| Phys Education | 14 | 28 | $75 \%$ | 294 |
| Electives | 26 | 28 | $22.5 \%$ | 164 |
| Total Capacity |  |  |  | $\mathbf{2 , 1 9 2}$ |

Fairfax County Public Schools School Capacity and Utilization

## Class Size Ratio

## Special Programs

## Space Management

## Magnet Programs

## School Capacity and Utilization

## Capacity and Utilization Dashboard

Read Me
Capacity Overview
School Year (SY) 2020-21

21

FairfaxCounty PUBLIC SCHOOOLS


