



COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE
Office of Facilities Development
401 McIntire Road, Room 228
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902-4596

Phone (434) 872-4501

Fax (434) 972-4091

Albemarle County Schools Building Capacity / Enrollment Comparison Report Preface

Prepared by the Office of Facilities Development
December 3, 2012

Purpose: To gather and present comparative data pertaining to school systems around the state of Virginia in order to compare respective school system's building capacities, facilities, enrollment and student / teacher ratios to Albemarle County Public Schools.

Methods of Information Gathering: Direct communication with representatives of some school systems via phone and e-mail. Information was also obtained by accessing public information on individual school system's websites. Primary source of information from websites was budget reports that ranged from 115 to 600 pages each. Albemarle County information was provided by website and Rosalyn Schmitt of Building Services.

Included in This Report:

- ❖ Single page handout spreadsheet with comparative data for Albemarle County Public Schools and twelve (12) other school systems in the state of Virginia.
- ❖ Report containing two (2) pages titled "Conclusion", five (5) report pages under the heading of "Column Explanations", one (1) graph and one (1) additional fold-out spreadsheet.

The “Column Explanation” report items are an explanation of the information that is posted in each column in the spreadsheet and its significance. The spreadsheet contains data for school and facility related items including but not limited to building capacities, current enrollments and square feet per student and how Albemarle County schools compare to other similar school systems in these categories.

We have also included graphic plotting of square feet per student to better illustrate how Albemarle County schools compare with other school systems and the averages for this item.

Important Items to Consider When Evaluating This Report:

- ❖ This report includes data for Albemarle County Public Schools and twelve (12) other school systems. Please keep in mind that there are over 140 public school systems in the state of Virginia so this sample is including about 8% of the public school systems in the commonwealth.
- ❖ This report represents district or system wide averages for the information. This does not take in to consideration individual schools and their respective needs. We may find that one school is 50 below capacity while one is 50 above capacity and they would average out to 0. Agnor Hurt would be an example of this situation because their enrollment is significantly higher (almost 100 students) than the adopted capacity.
- ❖ The school square footage figures were very difficult to obtain. The information that has been gathered is total school square footage, not classroom square footage. Consideration must be given to the fact that some schools have multiple gymnasiums, some schools have auditoriums while others don't, and other comparable existing conditions that could skew the information that is being presented.
- ❖ During the process we found that some school systems had differing information listed in their budget report versus information from various departments. We also found that establishing the student / teacher ratio was very difficult because there were many published figures that could be

accessed. We found four (4) reports for Hanover County that showed four (4) different student teacher ratios.

The National Center for Education Statistics even has a warning included on their state reporting for student / teacher ratios that reads: *“Interpret data with caution. The standard estimate for this student to teacher ratio data is equal to 30% of the estimate’s value.”*

Albemarle County Schools Building Capacity/Enrollment Comparison Chart

Locality	Grades	Student/ Teacher Ratio (from Sch Div) *	Capacity	2011/2012 Enrollment **	Enrollment vs Capacity	Total Building Area (S.F.)	S.F./Student (capacity)	S.F./Student (capacity) Comparison to Average
Albemarle (Sch Bd Adopted Methodology)	K-5	21.45	6,464	6,256	96.78%	952,174	147	22.50%
	6-12	23.78	7,728	6,835	88.44%	1,301,348	168	3.70%
Albemarle (Former Methodology)	K-5	21.45	7,213	6,256	86.73%	952,174	132	10.00%
	6-12	23.78	7,768	6,835	87.99%	1,301,348	168	3.70%
Hanover	K-5	20.00	7,674	9,605	125.16%	1,065,913	139	15.83%
	6-12	21.00	10,168	11,680	114.87%	1,582,806	156	-3.70%
Henrico	K-5	20.60	22,425	22,336	99.60%	2,800,000	125	4.17%
	6-12	22.00	25,610	25,580	99.88%	4,200,000	164	1.23%
Fauquier	K-5	17.00	5,020	4,990	99.40%	800,000	159	32.50%
	6-12	15.20	6,190	6,142	99.22%	1,300,000	210	29.63%
Spotsylvania	K-5	23.50	13,233	10,852	82.01%	1,210,000	91	-24.17%
	6-12	27.00	14,659	13,016	88.79%	2,390,000	163	0.62%
Roanoke County	K-5	20.40	7,751	6,183	79.77%	935,589	121	0.83%
	6-12	22.42	9,190	8,081	87.93%	1,395,795	152	-6.17%
Stafford	K-5	25.00	14,399	11,599	80.55%	1,321,755	92	-23.33%
	6-12	25.00	17,495	15,399	88.02%	2,450,731	140	-13.58%
James City	K-5	22.00	5,470	4,621	84.48%	744,469	136	13.33%
	6-12	24.00	6,533	5,928	90.74%	993,570	152	-6.17%
Chesterfield	K-5	17.00	25,884	25,963	100.31%	2,850,000	110	-8.33%
	6-12	20.00	32,594	32,744	100.46%	4,220,000	129	-20.37%
Culpeper	K-5	17.00	4,013	3,649	90.93%	460,000	115	-4.17%
	6-12	17.00	4,289	4,009	93.47%	798,000	186	14.81%
Loudoun	K-5	18.00	34,222	32,593	95.24%	3,840,000	112	-6.67%
	6-12	20.00	34,988	34,578	98.83%	5,760,000	165	1.85%
Fairfax	K-5	19.70	117,580	92,879	78.99%	11,150,065	95	-20.83%
	6-12	21.00	88,295	81,578	92.39%	12,851,001	146	-9.88%
Rockingham	K-5	18.00	5,225	5,121	98.01%	782,000	150	25.00%
	6-12	15.60	6,311	6,128	97.10%	1,137,000	180	11.11%
Average (Excludes Albemarle)	K-5	19.85			92.87%		120	
	6-12	20.85			95.98%		162	

* Albemarle student/teacher ratio reflects base staffing.

** Albemarle Enrollment is 2012/2013.

Spreadsheet Column Explanations

Locality:

Locality column is referring to each individual school district. All of the school districts in this comparison are county school districts in the state of Virginia. We have also included the Virginia Department of Education in this column.

We have included data from twelve (12) different school systems ranging in total enrollment of 7,658 (Culpeper County) to 205,875 (Fairfax County). Six (6) of the localities we have used for this comparison have comparable enrollments to the Albemarle County Public School system. Seven (7) of the localities listed in this spreadsheet are local government entities that Albemarle County compares itself to when evaluating salary levels. Those seven (7) districts are Chesterfield County, Fauquier County, James City County, Loudon County, Roanoke County, Rockingham County and Spotsylvania County.

You will see two (2) “**Albemarle’s**” listed in this column. The first represents the adopted or new capacity information and the second represents the former or previous capacity information.

Grades:

We have broken this comparison into two separate groups to compare with other school systems. We have gathered information that pertains to grades K through 5 (elementary schools) and grades 6 through 12 (secondary schools). One (1) of the localities (Spotsylvania) actually reports elementary schools as grades K through 6 and secondary as grades 7 through 12.

Student Teacher Ratio (From School Division):

This column is the student teacher ratios that we found in each school district's published information. Most of this information was gathered from Budget Reports that are published on websites of each respective school system. This represents their policy or maximum in regard to student / teacher ratio.

Capacity:

This column represents building capacities as published by each respective school system. Most of these figures were found on school system websites in budget reports or Facilities Maintenance departments published information. Most of these localities base these capacity figures on maximum capacity from an allotted square footage per student or code limits for capacity per room. They then make adjustments to the capacity figures based on how many periods the various classrooms are actually used. A common adjustment is the assumption that classrooms will be used 7 out of 8 possible periods and therefore the maximum building capacity is adjusted by a multiplier of .875 or 87.5% which is the sum of 7 divided by 8. This is also sometimes referred to as a "utilization factor."

Example: School ABC has a maximum building capacity of 500. Classrooms are used on average 7 out 8 periods or 87.5%. $500 \times .875 = 437.5$. The adjusted capacity is rounded up to 438. Some school systems base their capacity on a designated square footage per student. New York City allots 20 SF per student. If a classroom is 800 SF, their maximum capacity is then 40. $800 \text{ SF} / 20 \text{ SF per student} = 40 \text{ students}$.

Enrollment:

This column represents the actual enrollments for school year 2011 / 2012 in each school system. Most of the figures found in this column came from budget reports published by each school district. Again this has been broken down by grades K through 5 and grades 6 through 12. Albemarle County Schools enrollment is based on 2012 / 2013 school year.

Enrollment vs Capacity:

This column represents the percentage of enrollment versus stated capacity. In other words, how full the schools are compared to the capacity of the buildings. For example, Albemarle County Public Schools K-5 currently have a capacity of 6,464 (adopted capacity figure) and an actual enrollment of 6,256. What this means is that our facilities are **96.78% full** in relation to our stated capacity for grades K-5.

Total Building Area (SF):

This is the total square footage of all school buildings in each individual school system. The majority of this information came from published reports, phone calls to Facilities personnel or e-mails to the same personnel.

SF / Student (Capacity):

This calculation is giving us the figure of the amount of square feet (SF) of building space per student based on the stated capacities of the schools in each respective school system. This is calculated by dividing square footage by capacity. For example, Fauquier County shows a total square footage of 1,300,000 for grades 6-12. The stated capacity is 6,190. You would divide square feet by capacity or

$1,300,000 / 6190 = 210$ square feet per student. Albemarle County's figure for square feet per student for grades 6-12 based on capacity is 168.

SF / Student (Capacity) Comparison to Average:

This column gives us comparative figures in regard to square feet (SF) per student as averaged across the sample. Positive numbers represent percentage of square feet per student more than the average.

Graph # 1: S.F. / Student Capacity

This is a bar graph that shows square feet per student as it pertains to building capacity. It includes all school systems in our comparison spreadsheet including Albemarle County. The bars are green for grades K through 5 and blue for grades 6 through 12. There are means or average lines across the graph horizontally in colors that correspond to the two grade groupings that show the average figures for each school system. We also have included red horizontal lines showing Albemarle County so it can be compared across the chart to other school systems as well as the average.

Sources:

http://schoolprofiles.fcps.edu/schlprfl/f?p=108:116:1905322212926214:105:NO::P0_CURRENT_SCHOOL_ID:305

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/fcps-budget-facts.pdf>

http://bi.vita.virginia.gov/doe_bi/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Main&subRptName=Fallmembership

<http://co.stafford.va.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/841>

http://www.cota.vt.edu/ems/clients/case_studies/HenricoCty-PS.pdf

<http://www.henrico.k12.va.us/Pdf/Finance/2012-2013FinalApprovedAnnualFinancialPlan.pdf>

<http://www.spotsyschools.us/finance/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Lmdlsfsfcd4%3d&tabid=1437>

<http://www.fcps1.org/education/page/download.php?fileinfo=RmluYWxfMjAxMi0yMDEzX2J1ZGdlF93aXR0X2NvdmVyLnBkZjo6Oi93d3cvc2Nob29scy9zYy9yZW1vdGUvaW1hZ2VzL2RvY21nci81MzQzX2ZpbGVfMzY0MjdfbW9kXzEzNDM5MzlwNDEucGRm§iondetailid=46351>

<http://www.rcs.k12.va.us/budget/documents/2012-13BudgetBook.pdf>

<http://www.rcs.k12.va.us/news/forms/ff1.pdf>

Albemarle:

[Buildings Square Footage - Building Services web \(Murray HS not counted\)](#)

Student/Teacher Ratio (sch div) - info provided in Schools 4/12/12 Building Capacity Methodology Evaluation& Proposal

Albemarle County Schools Building Capacity / Enrollment Comparison Report

Prepared by the Office of Facilities Development
December 3, 2012

Conclusions

The information contained in this report is a compilation of data that has primarily been obtained from public record documents that were created and published by school systems in this comparison study. This information is capturing averages for the comparative information and is not school specific and does not illustrate individual school's potential requirements or needs.

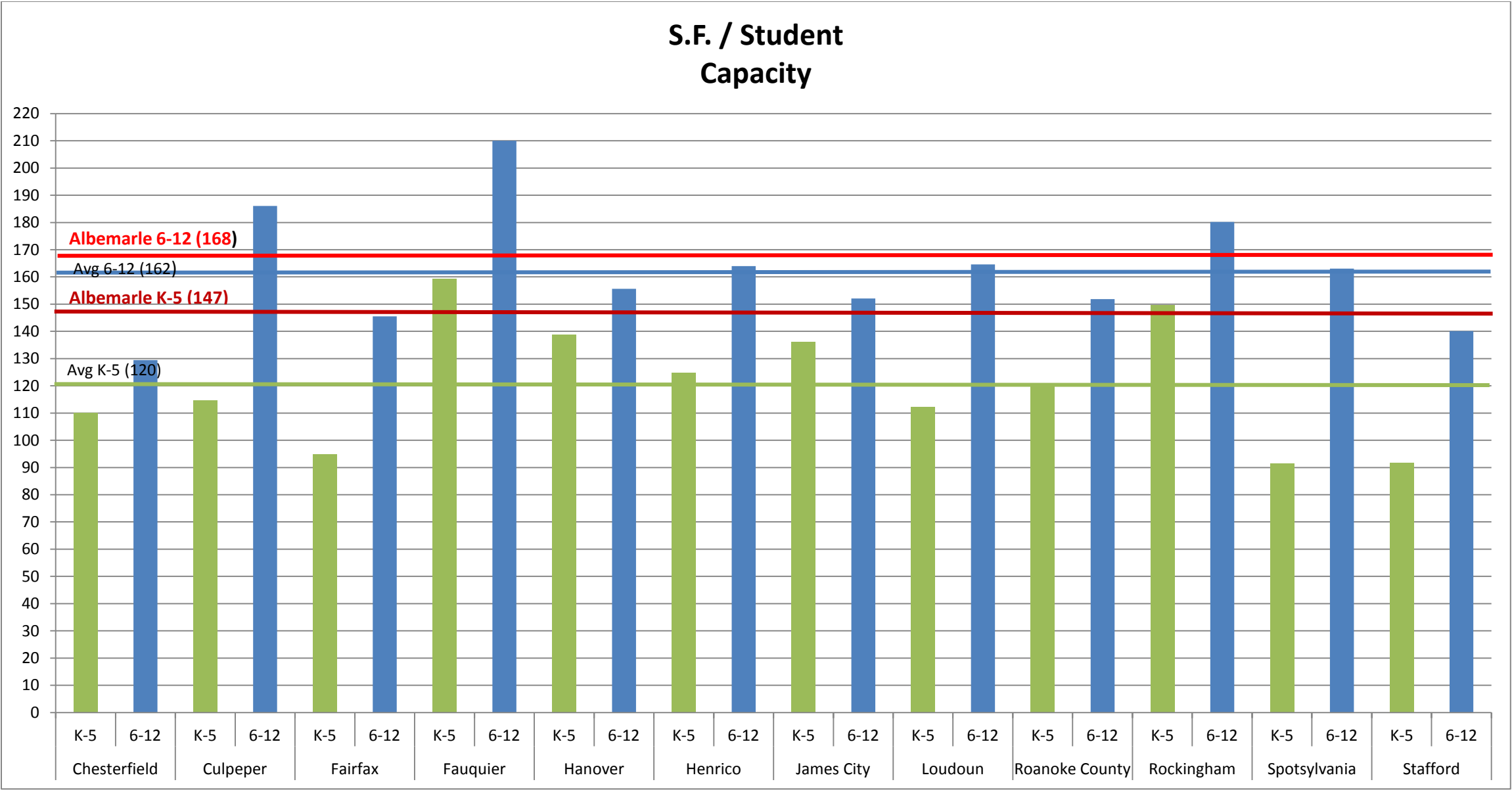
This comparison includes twelve (12) of the more than 140 public school systems in the Commonwealth of Virginia or just over 8%. Half of the school systems in this comparison are similar to Albemarle County Public Schools from an enrollment standpoint. We have also included school systems and counties that Albemarle County routinely compares itself to when evaluating pay levels and operating policies.

The following are conclusions based on comparisons of the obtained data in the respective categories:

Student / Teacher Ratio: Albemarle County Public School system's student to teacher ratio is presently higher than the average for the twelve (12) schools in this comparison. For grades K through 5, Albemarle County schools have an 8% higher student to teacher ratio (21.45) than the average (19.85). For grades 6 through 12, Albemarle County schools have a 14% higher student to teacher ratio (23.78) than the average (20.85) in this study. Albemarle County schools also have a higher ratio in these two grade groups than the national averages of 20.3 for elementary and 18.6 for secondary schools. **Albemarle County's student / teacher ratio in this study is what is referred to as "base staffing or regular staffing and does not include specialists."**

Enrollment vs Capacity: The average for the schools in this comparison study is that K-5 schools are 93% full while Albemarle County K-5 schools are 96.78% full. Grades 6-12 schools in the study are 96% full while Albemarle County 6-12 schools are 88% full.

Square Feet Per Student (Capacity): The average square feet per student in this study for grades K-5 is 120 square feet per student while Albemarle County is 147 square feet per student or 22.50% more square feet per student than the average. For grades 6-12, the study average is 162 square feet per student while Albemarle County is just slightly higher than this average at 168 square feet per student or 3.86%.



Albemarle based on School Board Adopted Methodology