

2023/2024 EDUCATIONAL PLAN: SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH, TECHNOLOGY, SCHOOL SAFETY AND PERSONALIZED LEARNING

The Arlington Central School District is committed to providing student-centered, equity-focused, future-driven learning experiences for all students that prepare them for success in life upon graduation. The district supports personalized learning environments for students that promote academic growth and success, and that develop interpersonal and self-leadership skills. The proposed 2023/2024 Educational Plan and Budget is built to support these priorities.

The Board of Education also recognizes the need to be fiscally responsible. For the 12th consecutive year, the Board has adopted a budget that is below our allowable tax levy cap. The proposed budget is \$256,252,000, a 6.51% increase from the current school year. The tax levy increase is 1.85%, which is below our allowable 2.05% tax cap.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The proposed 2023/2024 Educational Plan and Budget maintains all current instructional, student support, and extracurricular programs. The plan includes funding for the following:

- Expanding our Responsive Support Program, an alternative setting for students who are experiencing acute emotional distress. The program includes academic and therapeutic supports to allow students to successfully return to their home schools when they are ready.
- Additional social workers to address the behavioral and mental health needs that have increased following the COVID19 pandemic.
- A business incubator program at AHS. This partnership with local business leaders will encourage future Arlington entrepreneurs.
- Safety upgrades, including additional cameras at Arlington High School and at

LaGrange and Union Vale Middle Schools, as well as portable metal detectors for large high school events.

- Critical technology updates to replace switches that are nearing their end of life. This is part of a 4-year plan to protect our network infrastructure.

There are a number of capital projects included in this year's budget:

- Additional funds for the LaGrange Middle School municipal water connection
- Additional funds for the Overlook Primary School HVAC system
- Upgrades to the fire alarm system at Union Vale Middle School
- Replacing hot water storage tanks at Titusville Intermediate School
- Repairing the façade at Arthur S. May School
- Improvements to the athletic fields at Arlington High School.

See page 6 for details about this year's bus and equipment proposition. A complete copy of the 2023/2024 Educational Plan and Budget is available online and at all of our schools. For more information, call 486-4460 or visit our website at www.arlingtonschools.org.

Please, remember to vote on May 16. •



2023 BUDGET VOTE MAY 16 • 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM



ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMUNICATOR

BUDGET ISSUE 2023



BUDGET SNAPSHOT

Budget Element		Year over Year Change
Spending	\$256,252,000	6.51%
State Aid Revenue	\$88,215,607	14.82%
Other Revenue	\$7,559,385	24.72%
Assigned Fund Balance	\$7,193,000	0.00%
Reserve for Tax Reduction	\$210,000	0.00%
Tax Levy Revenue	\$153,074,008	1.85%

WANT MORE BUDGET DETAILS?

Visit the Arlington website: www.arlingtonschools.org

- Voting locations—street listing
- Complete budget details
- Full bus and capital improvement proposition details
- Board of Education budget presentations
- Board of Education candidate bios

ELEMENTARY STEM RESOURCES SPARK CURIOSITY, COLLABORATION, AND CRITICAL THINKING

One of the priority areas for the curriculum, instruction, and assessment budget for the 2023/2024 school year is the purchasing of new science and math resources to support the rollout of the Next Generation Learning Standards (NGLS) that New York State adopted 2017.

Today's children are growing up in a very different world than when the last science standards were developed more than 15 years ago. Since then, there have been major advances in science and our understanding of how students learn science. Likewise, it has been 12 years since NYS adopted the Common Core Math Standards. The new math standards were developed after a rigorous review process by parents, teachers, administrators, college professors, and experts in cognitive research.

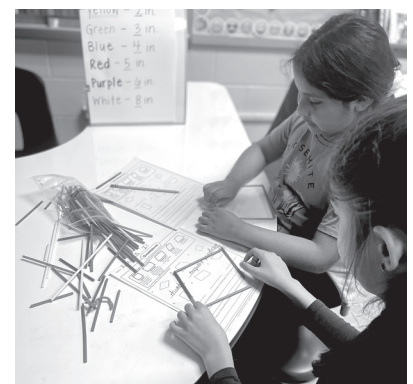
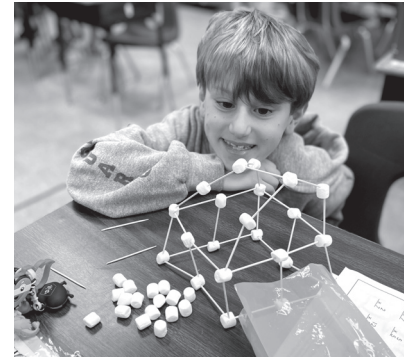
Students need learning experiences that give them the tools and skills necessary to succeed in a rapidly and continuously changing world. When current students graduate from high school, more jobs will require skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) than in the past. The NGLS provide a strong science and math education that equips students with the ability to think critically, analyze information, and solve complex problems—the skills needed to pursue opportunities within and beyond STEM fields.

WHAT WILL THE NEW STANDARDS LOOK LIKE IN THE CLASSROOM?

The Next Generation Math and Science Standards call for more student-centered learning that enables students to think on their own, problem solve, communicate, and collaborate—in addition to learning important science and math concepts.

Last year, Arlington adopted Science 21 for our elementary schools. Science 21 is an engaging hands-on, lab-based program with lessons that are relevant to students' everyday lives. The District implemented Science 21 in 4th and 5th grade classrooms this year. This program, developed by Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES, is used by most districts in our area. We will introduce the program to our 3rd grade students this fall and then to our kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students in the fall of 2024.

At the elementary level, we have been piloting the Investigations math program for the last 2 years. Approximately half of our students in grades K–5 are learning math using Investigations. This spring, the Board of Education formally approved Investigations as the District's math curriculum resource. For the fall of 2023, we will focus on ensuring that all of our students in grades 3–5 have access to Investigations. Like Science 21, the program is a hands-on, inquiry based program that prepares students to be able to explain their reasoning and try multiple solutions when approaching math problems. Our teachers report that students have a new love of math and truly enjoy the play based approach to learning. •



2023 BUDGET VOTE MAY 16 • 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM

SUPPORTING STUDENT WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, more than 80% of U.S. public schools report that the pandemic has negatively impacted student behavior and mental health. We have seen this trend in Arlington schools. As a District, we are taking several steps to address these issues.



MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS (MTSS)

The Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a framework that helps educators identify students' academic, behavioral, interpersonal, and emotional strengths and challenges. Schools provide different levels of support for students based on their needs. Over the past two years, Arlington has embraced the MTSS model, understanding that we must address the whole child by supporting the development of academic, as well interpersonal and self-leadership skills. MTSS is a three-tiered model. Tier 1 (80–90% of students) provides universal support for all students. Tier 2 (5–10% of students) provides targeted support for students who are at risk. Tier 3 (1–5 % of students) provides individualized support for students with intensive and persistent challenges.

ADDITIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS

The 23/24 school year budget includes hiring additional social workers to support our students' wellness and mental health needs. Currently, Traver Road Primary and Joseph D'Aquanni West Road Intermediate Schools share a social worker. Next year, each of these schools would have their own full-time social worker.

As part of the 3-tiered approach, school social workers work in classrooms to help students develop coping strategies to regulate their behaviors and emotions (Tier 1). They also work with students in small groups (Tier 2) or individually (Tier 3) as needed to address mental health and behavioral issues. Our school social workers utilize a variety of mindfulness strategies to help students manage their behaviors and their emotions.

WHAT IS MINDFULNESS? HOW DOES IT HELP?

According to the Mindful Schools program, research shows that practicing mindfulness improves attention and focus, helps students regulate emotions, reduces stress and anxiety, and strengthens self-compassion and compassion for others.

Mindful Schools defines mindfulness as "being present here and now, paying attention to thoughts, bodily sensations, emotions, and the external environment with kindness, nonjudgment, and curiosity."

Arlington currently has three school social workers who have completed mindfulness training. In 2023/2024, additional school counselors, social workers, and psychologists will be trained in mindfulness practice. Next year all 6th grade students will be required to take a health class, where learning mindfulness techniques will be an important part of the curriculum.

MINDFULNESS SPACES AND SENSORY PATHS

In 2019, Arlington High School opened the first District Mindfulness Room. If students are having difficulty managing stress or emotions or are worrying about something, they can visit the Mindfulness Room during their lunch period. Mindfulness rooms provide a warm and calming environment where students can practice effective mental health techniques such as meditation, yoga, reading, journaling, and coloring. This past year, several elementary schools opened mindfulness rooms and installed sensory paths in their schools.

Sitting is a challenge for many children (and adults too). Sensory paths provide students with an opportunity to re-focus their energy throughout the day. Students can spend a few minutes of their school day walking, jumping, bouncing and "pushing themselves through their distractions."

The District is looking forward to creating additional mindfulness spaces during the 2023/2024 school year.

RESPONSIVE SUPPORT PROGRAM (TIER 3)

Last year, we implemented the Responsive Support Program (RSP), an alternative setting for students in grades 7–12 who are experiencing acute emotional distress. This short-term program includes academic and therapeutic support to allow students to successfully return to their home schools when they are ready, typically in 4–6 weeks. The program currently meets for three hours a day. In 2023/2024, we plan to expand the RSP program for students in grades 7–12 from three to five hours a day. The Board is also considering expanding the RSP program for students in grades K–6 who need this level of intensive support. The 2023/2024 budget includes additional school social work support for the RSP program. •



ARLINGTON MUSIC PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THE 12TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

For the 12th year in a row, the NAMM Foundation recognized Arlington with the Best Communities for Music Education designation for the District's outstanding commitment to music education. This designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

To qualify, Arlington music coordinators Richard Guillen, 9–12 Music Coordinator, and Kristina Rizzo, K–8 Music Coordinator, answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, and support for the music program.

When asked about the Arlington music program, Ms. Rizzo and Mr. Guillen responded: "Music has been an integral part of the overall fabric of the Arlington Central School District Community for well over 55 years. The consistent and unwavering support of the community, Board of Education, and District administration has been a key factor for the music program's long history of excellence and success." •



ARLINGTON'S SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT SYMPOSIUM

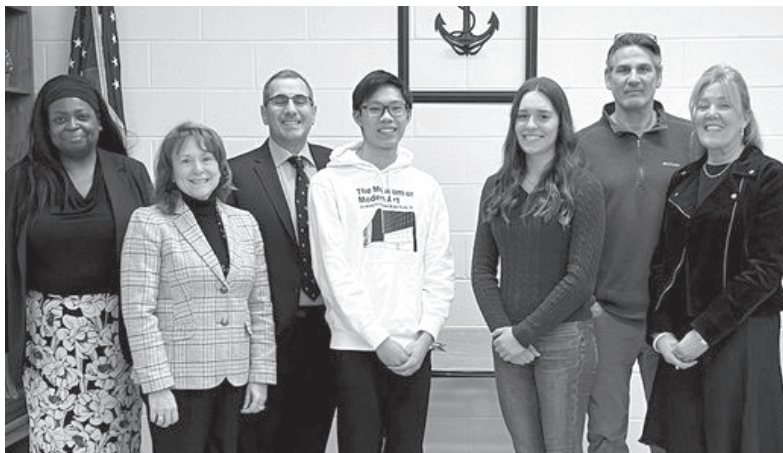
Arlington will be hosting a Special Education Parent Symposium on Saturday, May 13 from 9AM–1PM featuring a series of workshops for parents/guardians of students with disabilities. A sample of topics includes:

- Positive behavior supports
- Play in Early Childhood
- Speech and Language Development
- Mindfulness/Yoga
- Transition after High School



SCAN THE QR CODE TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023 VALEDICTORIAN RILEY O'HARE AND SALUTATORIAN AIDAN YEN



Pictured from left to right: Assistant Principal Jeannie Desire, House Principal Dr. Donna Bolner, Executive Principal Dr. Don Solimene, Aidan Yen, Riley O'Hare, and Guidance Counselors Jeff Dezago and Kim Ale.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BUDGET IS DEFEATED?

Under state law, if the school budget is defeated, the Board of Education has three choices:

1. Put the same budget up (without change) for a re-vote on June 20
2. Present a revised budget for a vote on June 20
3. Adopt a contingency budget.

If the budget is defeated a second time, the board must adopt a contingency budget. Under the tax cap law, a district that adopts a contingent budget may not increase its current tax levy by any amount—which would impose a 0% cap. For Arlington, this means cutting an additional \$8.33 million from the proposed budget.

These reductions would be made by eliminating all new equipment (with the exception of instructional technology), reducing staff, reducing programs, eliminating certain materials and supplies for students, reducing extracurricular activities, and reducing capital expenditures.

A contingency budget excludes capital projects from the general budget. We would be unable to include the additional funds for the LaGrange Middle School municipal water connection or for the Overlook Primary School HVAC system. We would not be able to upgrade the fire alarm system at Union Vale Middle School, replace hot water storage tanks at Titusville Intermediate School, or repair the façade at Arthur S. May School. Improvements to the athletic fields at Arlington High School would also be eliminated.

In addition to being identified as essential improvements, these projects generate state building aid. This will lower taxes and support future budgets over the next fifteen years. •

ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 2022/23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023/24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023/24 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$240,591,000	\$256,252,000	\$247,919,861
Increase/Decrease for the 2023/24 School Year		\$15,661,000	\$7,328,861
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		6.51%	3.05%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$150,298,693	\$153,074,008	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C – D)	\$150,298,693	\$153,074,008	\$150,298,693
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$5,865,321	\$4,761,659	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$145,955,767	\$148,612,349	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$144,433,372	\$148,312,349	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$1,522,395	\$300,000	
Administrative Component	\$20,571,536	\$22,286,312	\$21,891,757
Program Component	\$184,562,605	\$197,128,848	\$196,409,939
Capital Component	\$35,456,859	\$36,836,840	\$29,618,165

* The following is a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023/24 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated, pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. The projected contingency budget for the 2023/24 school year would be the proposed budget less \$8,332,139. These reductions would be made by eliminating all new equipment (except state-aided equipment), reducing staff, reducing programs, eliminating certain raises, eliminating certain materials and supplies for students, reducing extracurricular activities, and reducing capital expenditures.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Proposition #2 – Purchase of School Buses and Equipment	\$2,247,000

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023/24 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$860

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023/2024 by the qualified voters of the Arlington Central School District, Dutchess County, New York, will be held at School Election District #1 – Arthur S. May School, School Election District #2 – Traver Road Primary, School Election District #3 – Overlook Primary, School Election District #4 – Noxon Road Elementary, School Election District #5 – Beekman Elementary, and School Election District #6 – Vail Farm Elementary school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Arlington Central School(s), at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

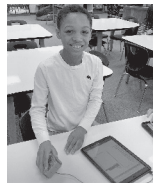
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Kindergarten registration for the 2023/2024 school year is underway! Students must be 5 years old by December 1, 2023 to register for next year.

Incoming kindergarten families should have already received a registration packet for the 2023/2024 school year. If you have not received a packet, please contact Central Registration at 845-227-1821.

Once your registration paperwork is complete, please call your home school to schedule an appointment to complete the registration process. Registration is by appointment only. If you are unsure of your home school or if you have questions about the paperwork, please call Central Registration at 845-227-1821.

Our schools are looking forward to welcoming your child and to providing a warm, exciting and enriching experience for the AHS Class of 2036! •



2023/2024 BUS AND EQUIPMENT PROPOSITION



Arlington bus driver Kathy O'Conner has been named as the 2023 Dutchess County Bus Driver of the Year in recognition of her exemplary service and safety record. Ms. O'Conner has worked for the District for over 25 years, with a consistent dedication to her students' safety and wellbeing.

ON MAY 16, VOTERS WILL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

- 10 Seventy-two (72) Passenger Buses
- 4 Thirty-five (35) Passenger vans
- 4 Seven (7) Passenger Minivans
- 1 Wheelchair Van
- 1 Backhoe

This year's bus and equipment proposition is for \$2,247,000 bonded over five years. Bus costs totaling \$2,147,000 are eligible for state transportation aid at the rate of 70%, so the local share is \$644,100.

DID YOU KNOW?

This school year, Arlington's fleet of 250 buses and vans will travel more than 2.9 million miles. We have 619 bus routes. We currently transport approximately 7700 Arlington students, 478 private and parochial students, 419 special education students, and 36 homeless students.

The district is required by law to transport students to 16 private schools and to 43 schools for special needs students. To save money, we continue to forge agreements with surrounding districts and with BOCES to share busing for special needs students.

SAFETY AND FLEET AGE

Arlington's Transportation Department's primary responsibility is to provide students with safe transportation to and from school. This requires us to maintain safe, reliable vehicles that meet all NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements. In

order to maintain our fleet in a fiscally responsible manner, we adhere to a year-to-year schedule for replacing our older buses. This provides cost predictability for the District and for our taxpayers. We need to replace buses after 10–12 years that have excessive mileage or undercarriage rusting. This replacement cycle helps to avoid expensive repairs and the need for emergency leasing. Purchasing new vehicles through a bond maximizes state aid and our buying power.

WHAT IF THE BUS PROPOSITION DOES NOT PASS?

As noted, Arlington maintains a schedule for bus replacements. If we do not replace buses in one year, then we need to replace more buses in subsequent years. This interrupts budget sustainability and predictability. Operating older buses increases our repair costs and has the potential to increase the number of buses taken out of service by the DOT. We want to avoid making cuts to our educational programs due to additional costs incurred from added repairs or the need to lease buses. •

2023 BUDGET VOTE MAY 16 • 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM

2023 SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

On May 16, voters will elect three members to the Arlington Board of Education. The terms of Linda Gaines and Dave Goddard will expire on June 30, 2023. The term of Charles McLeod (appointed on 10/11/22 for the seat vacated by Peter Bodnar) will expire on May 15.

There are six candidates running for three seats. Those elected to the Board will serve a three-year term. The candidate with the highest number of votes (who is not an incumbent) will begin their term on May 16, 2023. The other two candidates elected to the BOE on 5/16 will begin their terms on July 1, 2023.

Below are candidate statements explaining why they wish to serve on the Board of Education. For further details on each candidate's educational background, career history, and community involvement, please visit www.arlingtonschools.org. The candidates are listed in the order that they will appear on the ballot.



JEFF HAIGHT

As a member of the Arlington School Board, I hope to draw from my business experience and strong ties to the community to help the Arlington Central School District provide the best possible learning environment for all students in a safe, healthy, and diverse environment with a common community spirit. A large part in accomplishing this goal is through improved communication within the entirety of the district with a focus on the mental health of our students.



PHEE SIMPSON, ED.D.

I am running for the BOE because I believe my diverse skills and experience will allow me to be a valuable member representing different groups in the community so others have a voice in the ACSD decision making. I have the ability to see the big picture and the courage to help the organization achieve their mission. As well as the integrity to serve the interests of the students and the community at large.



DAVID A. SCOTT, ED.D.

I believe in these turbulent times, more than ever, education is the key to our future. Thus, it is important for the Board of Education to have the voice of a career educator. As a career educator I understand and value the importance of the role of a Board of Education member and I intend to utilize that knowledge for the betterment of all scholars in the Arlington Central School District.



LINDA GAINES, ED.D.

I am running for re-election for the Board in order to continue my commitment to making Arlington the very best it can be for students, teachers, staff, administrators and community members. I currently serve on the Policy and Health and Safety Committees. I am involved in these committees because everyone who enters our schools should know they are the safest they can be and making and reviewing policies provides the framework for decisions to be made.



JENNIFER BOYE

I am running for the BOE to uphold Arlington's mission to "empower all students to be self-directed, lifelong learners, who willingly contribute to their community, and lead passionate, purposeful lives." My intent is to ensure ALL students receive equitable educational opportunities, as learning spaces and teaching practices evolve, to prepare for the rapidly changing employment landscape. We must take a fiscally responsible approach to support teaching and provide ALL students the resources needed for success.



EILEEN SNOOK

I believe all students deserve an educational environment where they can thrive. This comes from a collaboration between administrators, teachers, staff and families. As a retired educator, I feel it is important for the Board of Education to provide support for these partnerships to occur. As Arlington determines future goals, I want to be involved to ensure that all student populations are considered, and that growth is made in a fiscally responsible way.



OUR MISSION IS

to empower
all students
to be
self-directed,
lifelong
learners,
who
willingly
contribute
to their
community,
and lead
passionate,
purposeful
lives.

Dr. Dave Moyer
Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mark Tornatore · President
Mary Anne Meaden · Vice President
Kelly Cahill Chenski, Esq.
Charles McLeod
Edward McCormick
Linda Gaines Ed.D.
Dave Goddard
Dr. Larry Jeanotte
Marion Quinn
Margie Flynn · Clerk of the Board

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

144 Todd Hill Road
LaGrangeville, NY 12540
845-486-4460

Visit Our District Website at
www.arlingtonschools.org



ARLINGTON CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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CAR-RT Pre-sort

POSTAL CUSTOMER

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 • 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older, and a resident of the district for 30 days prior to the vote. If you are registered to vote for a general election, you are registered to vote in all school district elections.

VOTING LOCATIONS

Make sure you know where to vote! An Arlington street listing is available on the 2023/2024 Budget Vote page at www.arlingtonschools.org.

District 1 – Arthur S. May School	District 4 – Noxon Road Elementary
District 2 – Traver Road Primary	District 5 – Beekman Elementary
District 3 – Overlook Primary	District 6 – Vail Farm Elementary

TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Absentee ballots are available to residents who will be out of town or who are unable to go to the polls due to illness or disability. To vote by absentee ballot, you must first fill out an application. Contact the district clerk at 486-4460 ext. 20212.

If you would like an absentee ballot mailed to you, we must receive your application by May 9.
If you plan to pick up your ballot, we must receive your application by May 15.

The district clerk must receive completed absentee ballots by 5:00 PM on May 16.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about the budget or about your voting location, information is available at all district schools, at www.arlingtonschools.org, or by calling 486-4460 ext. 20212.