

The following language was developed in response to the Steering Committee's request that the Public Facility and Service Guidelines for Schools be reexamined with an eye toward how new school sites are chosen. The Committee's concern was that too great an emphasis on large suburban school sites located outside of the PSA might have been inferred by the language previously adopted by the Committee. The following language has been developed with the involvement of Alan Robertson and Ruth Larson.

James City County Comprehensive Plan: *Historic Past, Sustainable Future*

Public Facilities Chapter:

Public Facility and Service Guidelines: Public Schools

Education: Public Schools

- For all measures of performance, the effective capacity rather than the designed capacity of each specific school should be used.
- For new school sites, factors such as close proximity to neighborhoods, location within the Primary Service Area, ability to minimize transportation costs, availability of land, cost of improvements, and accommodation of multiple users (school, recreation, and community) may translate into smaller urban/neighborhood sites or larger suburban sites as needs dictate.
- The following guidelines reflect the standards used in constructing the most recent County school sites and include space allowances for recreation considerations (both school and community needs including sports fields) and other community activities. They may be adjusted as needed to take into account the factors listed above. Multi-story structures, shared parking, and regional stormwater facilities may help reduce the amount of developable acres ultimately needed.

Elementary:

- At least 27 developable acres* for a school with a 500-700 student design capacity;
- Optimally located within a two-mile radius of least 80% of the students

Middle School:

- At least 38 developable acres* for a school with a 700-900 student design capacity;
- Optimally located within an eight-mile radius of at least 80% of the students

High School:

- At least 52 developable acres* for a school with a 1,200-1,400 student design capacity;
- Optimally located within a ten-mile radius of at least 80% of the students

*When designing new educational facilities, the square feet per student standard for elementary, middle, and high schools should be considered to ensure efficient and appropriate use and size of design space during planning.