



BY ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL

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TOPIC

Access to more parking spaces for Alexandria City High School students and staff at the Minnie Howard Campus.

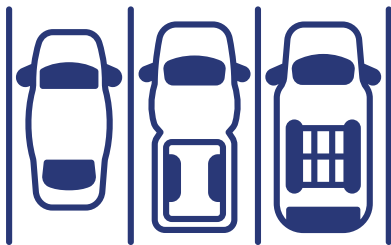
TOPIC DESCRIPTION

With the construction of the updated Minnie Howard ACHS campus, students and staff have found access to parking areas around the school to be limited. The goal is to provide more places for students and teachers to park around the school, or provide more ways to get to the school safely.

RESULT

100 MORE

parking spots available to ACHS students and teachers close to the Minnie Howard Campus.



CYCP GOAL AND STRATEGIC AREA

School Facilities and Operations



SIGNIFICANCE

Students at ACHS have seen a rise in towing and frustrated residents since the implementation of the updated Minnie Howard school and its lack of parking spaces available to both teachers and students. Parking is an ongoing issue. If a student wants to park, they must purchase a parking pass for Chinquapin and then take a bus over to the Minnie Howard campus. They can also park on a residential street, but that poses the risk of disgruntled residents. Chinquapin is the only space offered for students to park in that is reliable.

From a Safe Routes to School walk audit in 2023, the King Street campus alone reported that approximately **480** students out of **~3550** got to school using a car. Between all three ACHS campuses, there are roughly **763** staff members.

Fostering an environment where more students can drive and park safely at school allows students to build up in independence, responsibility, and enhance their opportunities for social interactions or extracurriculars. Providing space for students who drive to school to park prepares them for future adult responsibilities after they graduate.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Currently, the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities provides parking spaces to ACHS employees and students along the Chinquapin Loop during the school day with the purchase of a parking permit. Both campuses are eligible to purchase a Chinquapin Loop Road parking permit, in which there are limited spots. Priority is given to seniors, and it is \$120 for the entire school year.

In 2025, ACHS's Theogony performed an anonymous survey that asked students if parking issues have made them late to class, if there are enough parking spots, and if there should be more parking available.

64%

of respondents said that parking issues have caused them to be late to class.

95%

of respondents said that there are not enough parking spots available to students and staff.

100%

of respondents said that there should be more parking available at the ACHS campuses.

IMPLEMENTATION

The current situation of parking at the ACHS Includes:

- \$120 Parking permits for students and teachers at both campuses to park at the Chinguapin Loop. There is limited space in the loop.
- Only teachers are allowed to use the parking deck at King Street and the entire parking lot of Minnie Howard.
- There is limited parking at Minnie Howard for teachers and none for students.
- Parking is not equal between the two campuses in terms of availability.

PARTNERSHIPS

- ACHS
- Bradlee Shopping Center (First Washington Realty)
- Safeway



BRADLEE
SHOPPING CENTER



PERFORMANCE EFFORT

At the initial opening of the Minnie Howard campus, the administration went to Bradlee asking to use parking spaces in their back lot for students and teachers. Bradlee declined the request, stating that losing customers would cost them money.

There were discussions of providing spaces to students and teachers to park in, but there was not discussion of having paid spots to keep the company from losing money.

PERFORMANCE EFFECT

Negatives: Businesses may worry about losing money from loss of customers.

Negatives: Providing spots to students and teachers means less spots for customers to park.

Positives: Students and teachers are closer to the school/decrease in first period lateness

Positives: Paid parking passes allow the businesses to still make money from the spots when filled.

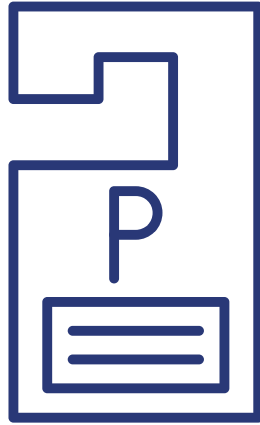


RECOMMENDATIONS

Agreements with businesses around the Minnie Howard Campus:

The ACPS transportation program can suggest agreements with businesses like Bradlee Shopping Center, Safeway, and/or Episcopal to provide a specified number of parking spaces in their lots to students and teachers of the Minnie Howard campus to park in. Bradlee would be the primary area of parking, using just the back lot for space.

Parking Passes: With an agreement between businesses and the school's transportation, the parking spots could be labelled and require a paid parking permit to park in with limited hours (I.e. 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.). This would allow the spaces to be monitored and tackle the possible worry of losing customers to people from the schools. The spots would not be paid for by the school, but instead the students and teachers just like how it is at the Chinguapin Loop.



ONLINE

Safe Routes to School: Conducted a walk audit in 2023 that supplied the number of students that drive to school.

Theogony: Conducted the anonymous survey that provided data about student/teacher opinions on parking.

IN PERSON

Mr. Harrell, Campus Administrator for the ACHS Minnie Howard Campus: Provided the information that the school has reached out to Bradlee before for parking spaces, but paid options were not explored.

Aliya Gaskins, Mayor of Alexandria: Recommended that multiple businesses should be talked to about lending parking spaces to decrease worry about loss of customers, recommended that the permits be for limited hours during the day.

CITATIONS

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