Charles Barrett Elementary School

1115 Martha Custis Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302

At a Glance…			
Year Built **1949**	*Tax Map* **006.01-03-01**	*Current Square Feet* **83,195**	*Average Educational Adequacy* **Satisfactory (73)**
Zoning ***RB***	*Lot Size* **150,748**	*Floor Area Ratio* **0.75**	*Allowed Square Feet* ***113,061***
POS	**64,504**	***0.0***	**0**
School Site **Satisfactory (71)**	*Building Assessment* **Satisfactory (75)**	*Instructional & Support Spaces* **Satisfactory (74)**	*Utilization* **Inadequate (72)**

Background

Charles Barrett Elementary School was built in 1949. In 1997, a media center was built. Renovations in 2011 included the addition of four classrooms, with four more expected to be constructed in 2015. The building shares a gymnasium and play fields with the adjacent Charles Barrett Recreation Center.

In 2014, Charles Barrett's enrollment was 458 students with a measured capacity of 428. Enrollment projections indicate the school population will increase to a student body of 512 by the year 2020.

The academic curriculum at Charles Barrett includes reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. The school also offers:

- Art instruction with a certified art teacher
- Music with a certified music teacher
- Fourth and Fifth graders band/orchestra
- Two physical education classes a week
- Health class/Family Life Curriculum
- Third, Fourth, and Fifth graders receive keyboarding instruction
- Special education programs
- Talented and Gifted program for grades K-5
- TAG pull-out program for grades 4-5 in the subjects of math and language arts

DASHBOARD	
Current Enrollment (2014-2015)	**458**
School Capacity	**428**
Projected Enrollment (2020)	**512**
Projected Primary Instructional Classroom Deficit	**2020** -8
Projected Total Additional Square Feet	**2020** -4,756
Electric Usage in kilowatt-hour (7/1/2013 – 6/30/2014)	**666,060**
Number of Maintenance Calls (7/1/2013 – 6/30/2014)	**188**

Key Findings

Summary

The data collected through this assessment reveals Charles Barrett Elementary School meets 71 percent of the educational adequacy benchmarks for an ideal 21st century elementary school. A score of 71 percent translates to a satisfactory rating for this school.

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High Priority Items

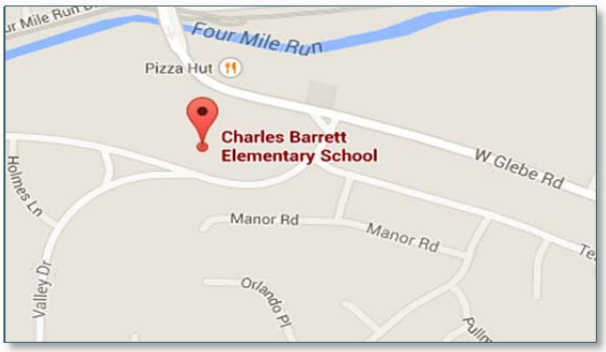
- The majority of classrooms did not meet the minimum size requirement.
- Core and specialty classrooms are not equipped with appropriate storage furnishings.

School Site

As shown in Exhibit A, the school site received a satisfactory rating. Site circulation received a borderline rating due to poor organization of vehicular and pedestrian traffic patterns. The kiss-and-ride, school bus lane, and pedestrian traffic all access the school from the same point of entry. This causes significant congestion on the main street near the school's front entrance immediately before and after school. There are multiple crossing guards controlling both pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Site Data

Environmental Considerations	*Steeper slopes in outfall channel and around open fields*
Number of Playgrounds	*3*
Recreation Features	*Ball fields, open fields, recreation center*
Resource Protection Areas	*None*
Number of Parking Spaces	*42*
Storm Water Management	*Flow thru planter boxes & bio-retention.*



Instructional and Support Spaces

Overall, the instructional and support spaces ranked satisfactory while the majority of the characteristics in all spaces meet or exceed the requirements. **All spaces failed to meet appropriate size requirements.** The majority of resource rooms and similar spaces making up the specialty classroom category are not only too small, but also lacked the necessary equipment, furniture, fixed infrastructure, and storage. The measured average classroom size for grades one through five is 775 rather than the desired 900 square feet needed to provide a flexible learning environment. The overall capacity of specialty classrooms and small support rooms is approximately 26 percent smaller than the square foot minimums detailed in the educational specifications. The school has significant deficiencies with air temperature and quality due to the lack of individual controllability and major temperature swings from season-to-season.

Instructional classrooms do not have individual student desks and therefore do not support diverse learning styles or flexible seating arrangements. The student and teacher program furniture, which includes shelving, cabinets, wardrobes, and cubbies, is either not adequate or non-existent in most classrooms. **The most urgent items in this section are classroom capacity and HVAC mechanical issues.**

Building Assessment

As highlighted in the Exhibit A scorecard, the school's capacity is below satisfactory primarily because the core classrooms, specialty classrooms and administrative spaces all fail to meet the required size. Most classrooms at Charles Barrett

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have the technology infrastructure and tools required to support a 21st century learning environment. The third, fourth, and fifth grade classrooms are not organized in grade level clusters as required by the educational specifications. There are no defined extended learning areas adjacent to the classrooms to allow for flexible and alternate teaching or break-out groups. Additionally, shared spaces, including the gym, art room, and cafeteria, are not centrally located as required.

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Recommendations

Group 1 – Required Planning

- **Site** assessment to determine whether the drop-off location for the school can be relocated/reconfigures (based on property boundaries. Setbacks, etc.). It will also help inform opportunities for additional parking

Group 2 – First Priority

- **Assess** opportunities to reconfigure the spaces within the existing school to meet the recommended size requirements for individual academic spaces as outlined in the educational specifics.
- **Explore** the feasibility of an expansion to the school to meet recommended size requirements and key organizational adjacencies outlined in the educational specifics.
- **Assess** the possibility of reconfiguring the north wing of the building comprised of four classrooms to provide a more efficient layout of core academic spaces and in adjacent outdoor play spaces.

Group 3 – Second Priority

- **Access** possibility of equipping all classrooms with individual climate and lighting controls
- **Explore** additional storage for teachers and students as well as an upgrade to the furniture, fixtures and equipment. Many classrooms do not have the required millwork necessary for the teaching environment.

Group 4 – Long-Range Recommendations

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Exhibit A

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Appraisal Summary for :	Charles Barrett			
Summary	**Unweighted Points**	**Tier**	**Priority**	**Rating Category**
1.0 School Site	71			Satisfactory
2.0 Building Assessment	75			Satisfactory
3.0 Instructional and Support Spaces	74			Satisfactory
4.0: Utilization	72			Inadequate
Average	**73**			**Satisfactory**

Key	
1	Excellent
2	Satisfactory
3	Borderline
4	Inadequate
5	Very Inadequate

1.0 School Site

Section 1	Unweighted Points	Tier	Priority	Rating Category
A Site Circulation.	54	4	14	Borderline
B Play areas / fields	88	3	18	Satisfactory
Average : School Site	**71**			**Satisfactory**

2.0 Building Assessment

Section 2	Unweighted Points	Tier	Priority	Rating Category
A Building Organization	75	4	19	Satisfactory
B Technology and Supporting Infrastructure	50	4	14	Borderline
C Accessibility	100	4	24	Excellent
Average : Building Assessment	**75**			**Satisfactory**

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3.0 Instructional and Support Spaces

Section 3	Unweighted Points	Tier	Priority	Rating Category
Core Classrooms				
Meets Size Requirements	37	2	7	Inadequate
Internal Organization and Ancillary Spaces	72	4	19	Satisfactory
Loose Furnishings	63	4	14	Borderline
Fixed Equipment and Infrastructure	73	4	19	Satisfactory
Lighting Quality	97	3	23	Excellent
Natural Lighting	97	3	23	Excellent
Acoustics	94	3	23	Excellent
Air Quality and Temperature	73	3	18	Satisfactory
Shared Spaces				
Meets Size Requirements	65	2	12	Borderline
Internal Organization and Ancillary Spaces	80	4	19	Satisfactory
Loose Furnishings	84	4	19	Satisfactory
Fixed Equipment and Infrastructure	72	4	19	Satisfactory
Lighting Quality	85	3	18	Satisfactory
Natural Lighting	78	3	18	Satisfactory
Acoustics	87	3	18	Satisfactory
Air Quality and Temperature	76	3	18	Satisfactory
Average: Instructional and Support Spaces	**74**			**Satisfactory**

4.0: Utilization

Section 4 : Utilization	Unweighted Points	Tier	Priority	Rating Category
A Core Classrooms (Capacity Drivers)	69	2	2	Very Inadequate
B Specialty Classrooms (Core A)	49	3	3	Very Inadequate
C Shared Spaces (Core B)	102	3	18	Satisfactory
Average : Utilization	**72**			**Inadequate**