

# DISTRICT PROFILE

# **ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Papio-Missouri River NRD  
Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

2021

## Local Planning Team

**Table APS.1: Arlington Public School District Local Planning Team**

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION
DAWN LEWIS	Superintendent	Arlington Public Schools

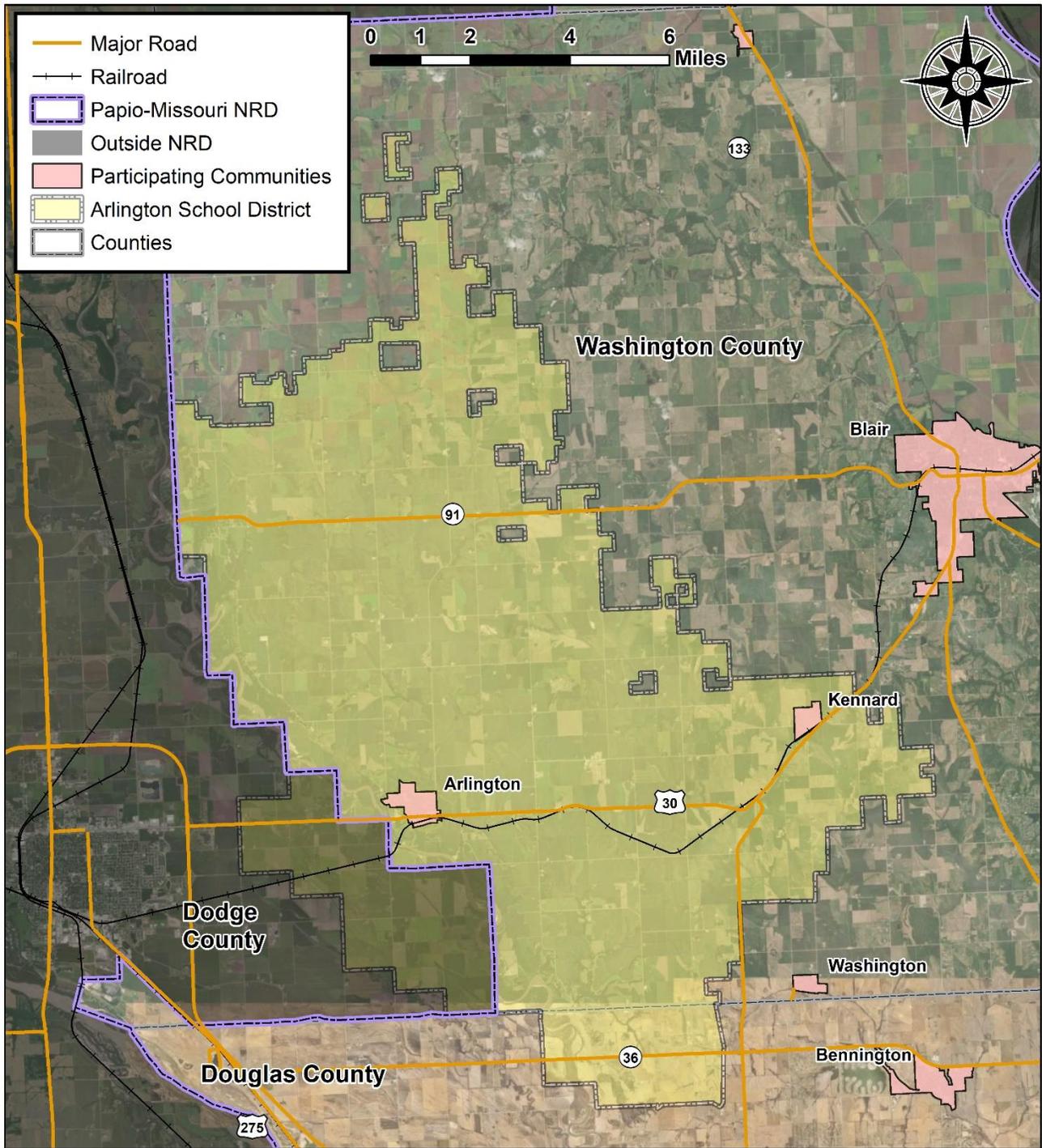
## Location and Services

Arlington Public Schools is located in the Village of Arlington in Washington County and serves two schools on one campus, Arlington Elementary and Arlington High. The school district provides services to students in Arlington and Kennard, as well as across Washington, Dodge, and Douglas Counties. Some students opt-in to the district as well from Fremont, Blair, Elkhorn, and Logan View. The school is utilized throughout the year after normal school hours for a variety of events.

## Demographics

The following figure displays the historical student population trend starting with the 2004-05 school year and ending with the 2018-19 year. It indicates that the student population has held relatively stable with an increasing trend in recent years. There are approximately 700 students enrolled in Arlington Public Schools.<sup>1</sup> The school district has seen consistent growth which is attributed to the desirability of the district. The Village of Arlington is also growing and housing stock turnover is high with families with children. Arlington Schools also sees students opt-in to the district from surrounding areas, such as Fremont. The primary language for the district is English; however a few students are bilingual Spanish. The district has staff who speak Spanish who can communicate with parents for important information.

Figure APS.1: Arlington Public School District





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 Date: 10/30/2020  
 Software: ArcGIS 10.7.1  
 File Name: PapioNRD\_ArlingtonSD.mxd

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 Hazard Mitigation Plan

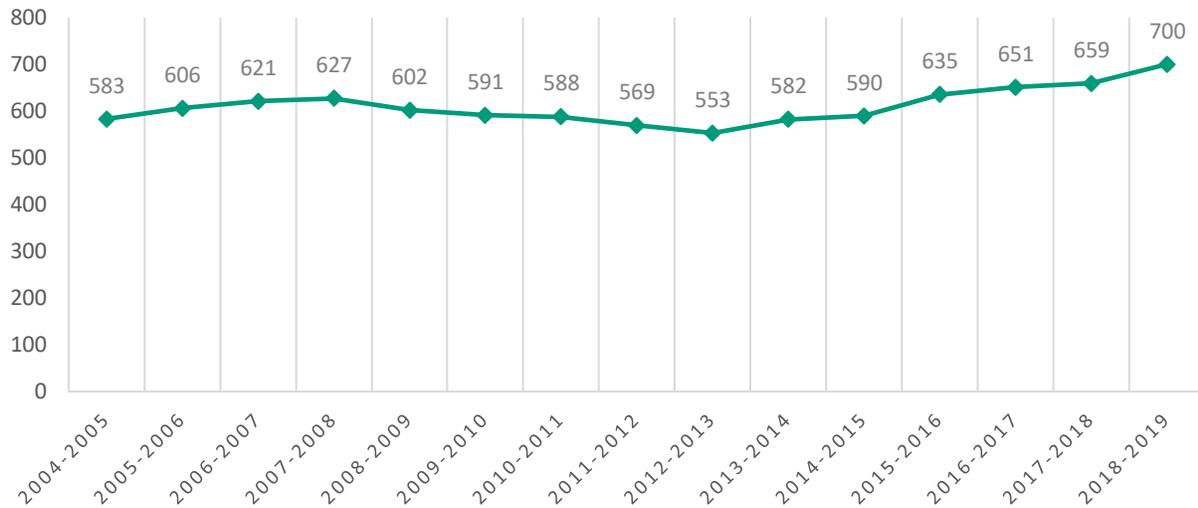
**Arlington Public Schools**



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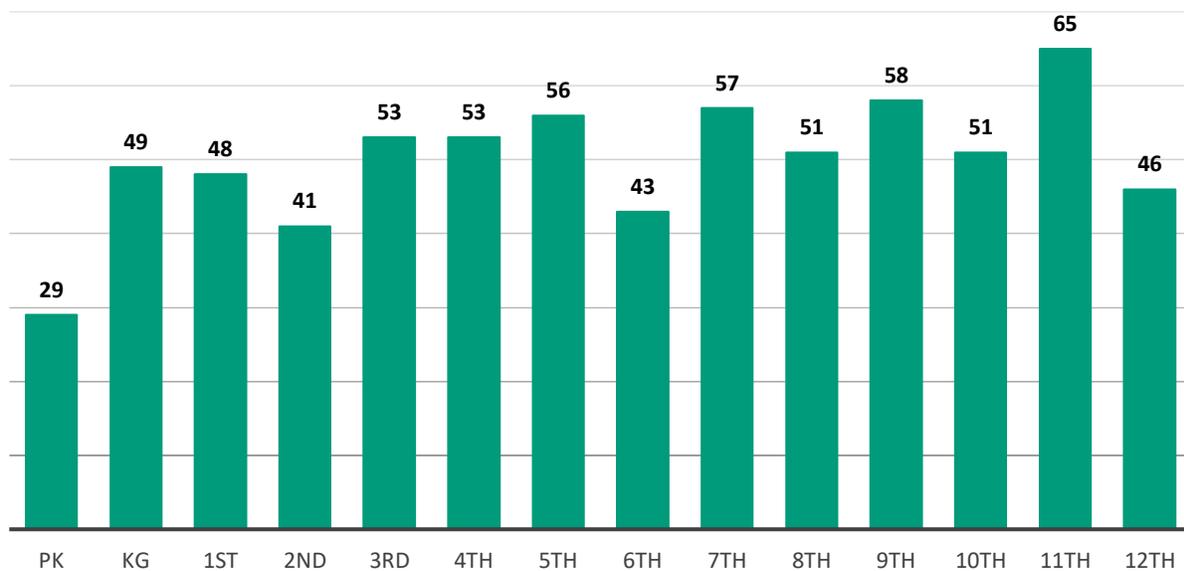
SECTION SEVEN: ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY PROFILE

**Figure APS.2: Student Population, 2004-2019**



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

**Figure APS.3: Students by Grade, 2018-2019**



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

The figure above indicates that the largest number of students are in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, followed by 9<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades. The lowest population of students are in Pre-kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. According to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), 23.71% of students receive either free or reduced priced meals at school in the 2017-18 year. This is lower than the state average of 45.21%. Additionally, 14% of students are in the Special Education Program. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

**Table APS.2: Student Statistics, 2018-2019**

	DISTRICT	STATE OF NEBRASKA
Free/Reduced Priced Meals	23.71%	45.21%
School Mobility Rate	3.8%	4.61%
English Language Learners	1.49%	7.16%
Special Education Students	14.01%	15.48%

### Future Development Trends

In 2009, the district completed a renovation project of 20,000 sq. ft. and 49,000 sq. ft. of new construction. These renovations included a new addition with fine arts, media space, and classrooms; a remodel of the entire elementary space; added buzz-in doors; and moved the administration offices. Two additional school buses were purchased in 2019 to accommodate school growth. In the past five years the district spent \$100,000 to improve drainage around the bus barn (regrading with concrete and rock to reduce ponding) and \$22,000 at the athletics field with a concrete slab and new bleachers. The district is currently evaluating the need for future elementary school expansion. A six-classroom addition is planned to be constructed in summer 2021 and a new free-standing elementary may be developed in the next ten years.

### Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources

#### Chemical Storage Fixed Sites

According to the Tier II System reports submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, there is one chemical storage sites that houses hazardous materials in Arlington. This facility is not located near either Arlington High School or Arlington Elementary School.<sup>1</sup> The local planning team noted no concerns exist currently for chemical spills or leaks.

#### Critical Facilities

The school district operates two schools at one campus facility. School facilities are listed below, along with information indicating the school's address, number of students and staff, if the facility is used as a shelter during emergencies (i.e. Red Cross Shelter), if the facility is located in the floodplain, and the presence of a tornado safe room and backup power generator. Critical facilities were identified during the original planning process and updated by the local planning team as a part of this plan update. The following table and figure provide a summary of the critical facilities for the jurisdiction.

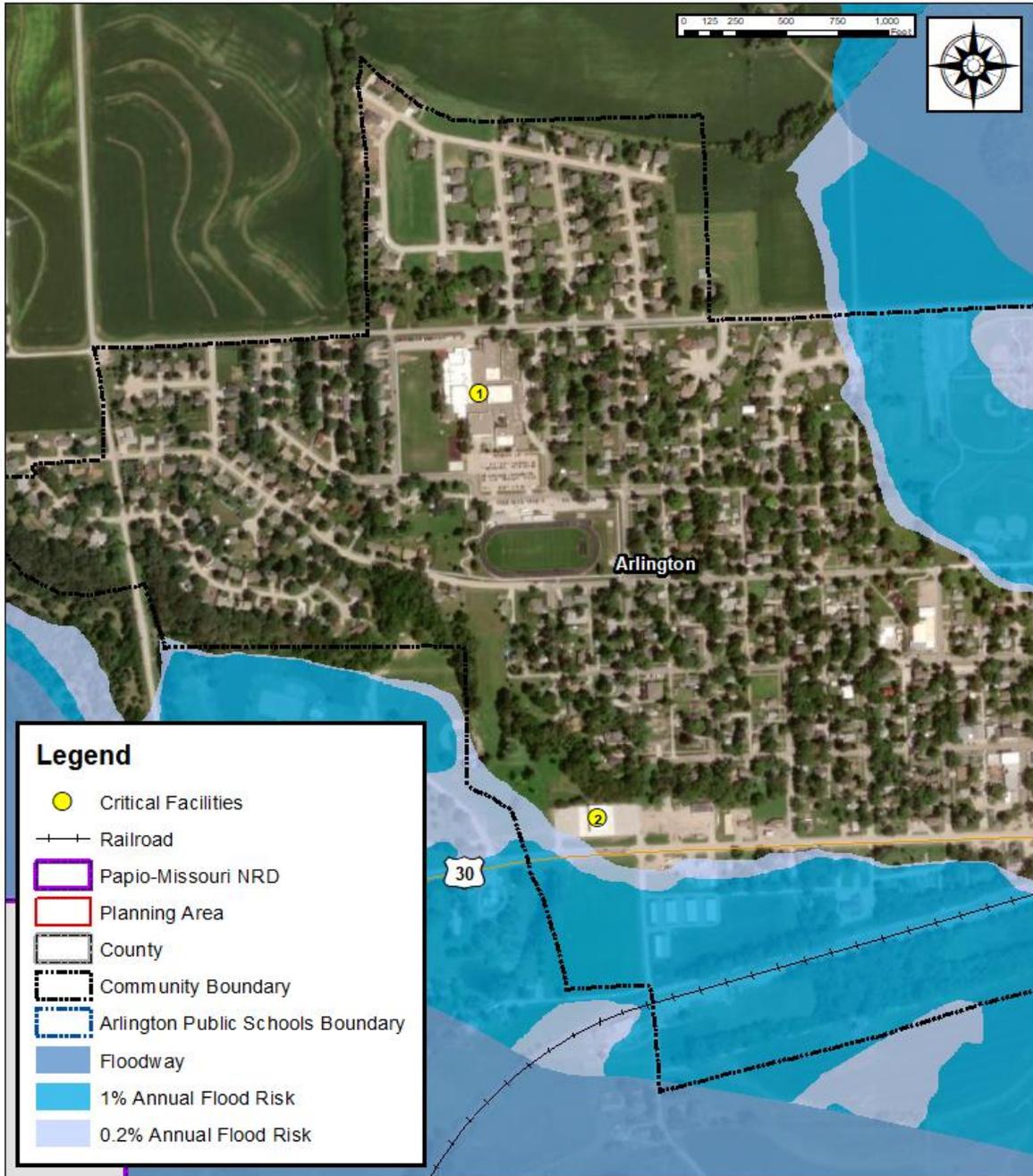
All school facilities currently have weather radios and the high school has been used as a supply depot during hazard events.

**Table APS.4: Critical Facilities**

CF #	NAME	# OF STUDENTS	# OF STAFF	SHORT-TERM SHELTER (Y/N)	GENERATOR (Y/N)	FLOODPLAIN (Y/N)
1	Arlington Elementary and High	700	48	Y	N	N
2	Bus Barn	0	0	N	N	N

<sup>1</sup> Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. "Search Tier II Data." Accessed November 2018. <https://deq-iis.ne.gov/tier2/search.faces>.

Figure APS.3: Critical Facilities





Created By: MB  
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Software: ArcGIS 10.7.1  
File Name: PapioNRD\_CountyCF.mxd

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Hazard Mitigation Plan  
**Arlington Public Schools  
Critical Facilities**



### **School Drills and Staff Training**

Students and staff participate in a number of drills throughout the school year. The school follows the Standard Response Protocol (SRP Model) for the types of drills that are covered, which include:

- Fire drills – monthly
- Tornado – twice annually
- Shelter in Place/Intruder – twice annually
- Evacuations/Reunification – once annually
- Bus Evacuations – twice annually

Staff undergo training annually for drills and emergency procedures. The district works with the local fire department, Washington County Sheriff, Region 5/6 Emergency Management, and State Patrol to teach students about preparedness and assistance with district drills. The school resource officer is a deputy with the Washington County Sheriff's office and sits on the district's Safety Committee. The Safety Committee meets regularly throughout the year to update and revise emergency plans. All coaching staff are trained and certified in CPR/First Aid and training is made available to all other staff members as needed.

An internal communications system is used to notify all staff members of hazard events. All staff members have copies of the emergency quick reference book in their classrooms and in a go-bag to be used during evacuations. Students and parents are notified of hazard events via a universal broadcasting system which sends texts, emails, social media, and call alerts to registered users. The school also sends weekly email newsletters with information for parents. The website hosts the student manual and paper copies are available upon request.

### **Historical Occurrences**

See the Sarpy County or City of Arlington community profile for historical hazard events.

### **Hazard Prioritization**

For an in-depth discussion regarding area wide hazards, please see Section Four: Risk Assessment. The hazards discussed in detail below were either identified in the previous HMP and determined to still be of top concern or were added by the local planning team based on the identification of hazards of greatest concern, hazard history, and the jurisdiction's capabilities.

#### **Flooding**

Flooding is the main concern for the school district. The Village of Arlington does have a one percent floodplain identified due to the proximity of Bell Creek to the east and the Elkhorn River to the west of the village. The school building is located in the northwest portion of the community and is not located in a floodplain. The school campus did not sustain damages during the March 2019 flood event. The high school was used as a supply depot for residents in Arlington and was prepared to house people during the event if needed. However, the bus barn is located adjacent to the floodplain and sustained damages during this flood event. The office space in the interior of the building was entirely gutted; however, no buses were damaged during the event as they were out on routes and were parked at the school overnight. The athletic field and a maintenance shed at the field have also experienced flood damages in the past. The school district has improved drainage patterns around the bus barn with new concrete and rock in the parking areas. The maintenance shed at the field was significantly damaged during the 2019 flood event and is currently unusable. The school district currently has a grant application in the works with FEMA to repair, mitigate, and replace portions of the bus barn, athletics field, and maintenance facility. This grant is estimated to be \$120,000.

### **High Winds and Tornadoes**

Although school facilities have not been directly impacted by a tornado, the Village of Arlington has had three tornados since 1996 that have affected the edge of the village or nearby. On June 20, 1996, an F1 tornado touched down north of the village and damaged a church as well as eight nearby farmsteads. Damages were estimated at \$300,000. A brief F0 tornado caused tree damage and damaged 4 outbuildings outside of Arlington. The third tornado was also an F1 and affected areas north of Arlington. Farm houses and barns, outbuildings, power lines, and trees were all damaged along its path, and total damage cost was estimated at \$600,000. The school district is concerned with the safety of students and staff in the event of a tornado directly impacting their school, particularly during the school year. The local planning team noted the school campus is on a high point in town and experiences wind impacts regularly. The main facilities are of brick-construction and power lines are underground, reducing risk to power outages. School locker rooms, restrooms, and basement areas are used as shelters during hazard events. The district has evaluated the need for rated storm shelters but it is currently not feasible for the district. All school facilities have weather radios and the outdoor warning siren in Arlington is two blocks from the school campus.

### **Severe Thunderstorms**

The combination of high winds, heavy rain, lightning, and hail can cause significant damages to district property. There have been reported damages from hail to facilities in the school district. Hail sizes of over an inch to 2.50 inches or larger can cause significant damages to roofs, windows, vehicles, and siding especially when the hail is wind-driven. A severe thunderstorm on June 1, 2010 caused minor structural damage and down tree limbs in the Village of Arlington from 60 mph wind gusts. The school skylights and the roof have been damaged by hail in June 2014. Power lines to the school are underground and serviced by OPPD. No major power outages have occurred in the past five years as a result of storm events; however, the school district has purchased a small generator to run auxiliary power if needed. School facilities have lightning rods on the roofs and rooftop utilities have been recently remodeled; however, they do not have additional hail resistant casings. School records are backed up on the cloud and external servers with ESU-3. The local planning team noted that there are still paper copies of many documents which should be digitized. Additionally, two trees on the east side of campus have sustained damages from wind and storms and have dropped limbs. Both trees are currently being removed by the district.

### **Severe Winter Storms**

Winter storms include heavy snow, blizzards, extreme cold, ice accumulation, and winter storms which can cause road closures, dangerously low temperatures, and power outages. The winter of 2009-2010 was especially harsh for the area. The Christmas Winter Storm of 2009 brought over a foot of snow and high winds gusting over 40 mph. These winds in combination with heavy snow produced widespread low visibilities and extremely low wind chills. While the past several years have not produced significant school closures or damages, the local planning team noted primary concerns for severe winter storms are for the safety of students and staff. The district experiences and expects snow days to occur annually. The district provides services across three counties with several bus routes traveling across gravel and unpaved routes. These transportation routes can become hazardous during icy or heavy snow conditions. The district removes snow from the campus, bus barn, and from the identified evacuation and reunification site at the fairgrounds.

## Administration/Capability Assessment

The school district has a superintendent, two principals, one assistant principal, and supportive staff. The school board is made up of a six-member panel.<sup>ii</sup> The district also has a number of additional departments and staff that may be available to implement hazard mitigation initiatives.

- Bookkeeper/District Treasurer
- Student Services Coordinator
- Technology
- Custodians
- Nurse
- Maintenance
- Buildings and Grounds
- Communications
- Finance Department
- Human Resources
- Library/Media Services
- PARA Education
- Transportation
- Curriculum Director
- Food Service

OVERALL CAPABILITY	LIMITED/MODERATE/HIGH
<b>FINANCIAL RESOURCES NEED TO IMPLEMENT MITIGATION PROJECTS</b>	High
<b>STAFF/EXPERTISE TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS</b>	Moderate
<b>COMMUNITY SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS</b>	High
<b>TIME TO DEVOTE TO HAZARD MITIGATION</b>	Limited

## Plan Integration

Arlington Public Schools maintain and review their Emergency Response Manual every year. The plan is updated regularly by the Safety Committee. The safety committee meets 4-5 times per year. The plan outlines the responsibilities of the Crisis Team as well as procedures for the following:

- Emergency evacuations
- Lockouts
- Lockdowns
- Bomb threats
- Intruder or hostage situation
- Bus situations
- Chemical spills
- Fire/Arson
- Severe Weather/Utility Failure
- Medical Emergency
- Biological Attack
- Nuclear/Radiological Attack

- Explosion
- Death on School Site
- Missing and/or abducted student

## Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The local planning team is responsible for reviewing and updating this community profile as changes occur or after a major event. The local planning team will include the Superintendent, Administration Team, Board Members, Board President, and the Director of Maintenance. The local planning team will review the plan bi-annually and will include the public in the review and revision process by: updating the district website, social media posts, and sharing information at board meetings.

## Mitigation Strategy

### Completed Mitigation Actions:

MITIGATION ACTION		BACK-UP POWER GENERATOR
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>		Provide a portable or stationary source of backup power to redundant power supplies, municipal wells, lift stations, and other critical facilities and shelters.
<b>HAZARD(S)</b>		All hazards
<b>STATUS</b>		The district has purchased a small portable generator and is also hooked into the Village of Arlington’s power supply. This is currently sufficient to meet local needs.

MITIGATION ACTION		EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>		Establish an action plan to improve communication between schools and other government agencies to better assist students and staff during and following emergencies. Establish inner-operable communications. Van and bus radios are especially needed.
<b>HAZARD(S)</b>		All hazards
<b>STATUS</b>		All bus radio equipment was upgraded between winter 2018 and summer 2019. Total project cost totaled \$40,000 out of the general fund.

MITIGATION ACTION		PROMOTE FIRST AID
DESCRIPTION	Promote first aid training for all staff.	
HAZARD(S)	All hazards	
STATUS	All coaching staff are CPR/First Aid certified with regular recertification. Training is available to all other staff upon request.	

MITIGATION ACTION		PROMOTE FIRST AID
DESCRIPTION	Promote first aid training for all staff.	
HAZARD(S)	All hazards	
STATUS	All coaching staff are CPR/First Aid certified with regular recertification. Training is available to all other staff upon request.	

MITIGATION ACTION		WARNING SYSTEMS
DESCRIPTION	Install new fire alarm system with strobe lights and warning sounds.	
HAZARD(S)	Severe Thunderstorms, High Winds and Tornadoes, Fire	
STATUS	Infrastructure is in place and is currently sufficient to meet local needs. Outdoor warning siren from the Village is loud enough to reach school campus.	

### Continued Mitigation Actions

MITIGATION ACTION		FACILITY FLOODPROOFING
DESCRIPTION	Rebuild and improve dugouts at the baseball field to withstand flood damage.	
HAZARD(S)	Flooding, Severe Thunderstorms	
ESTIMATED COST	\$60,000	
FUNDING	District General Funds, HMA	
TIMELINE	1 year	
PRIORITY	High	
LEAD AGENCY	School Administration	
STATUS	Project currently under construction. Anticipated completion by December 2020.	

MITIGATION ACTION		IMPACT RESISTANT ROOF COVERING
DESCRIPTION	Encourage the use of hail resistant roofing for any new construction or retrofit.	
HAZARD(S)	Hail, Severe Thunderstorms, High Winds	
ESTIMATED COST	Varies	
FUNDING	General fund, HMGP	
TIMELINE	2-3 years	
PRIORITY	High	
LEAD AGENCY	Maintenance	
STATUS	School roofs were updated recently to new rock/rubber material to help prevent future damages. Rooftop utilities are not reinforced for hail and may be addressed in the future.	

SECTION SEVEN: ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY PROFILE

MITIGATION ACTION		INSTALL VEHICULAR BARRIERS
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Install vehicular barriers to protect school facilities where possible.	
<b>HAZARD(S)</b>	Chemical Transportation, Terrorism	
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	Unknown	
<b>FUNDING</b>	General budget	
<b>TIMELINE</b>	5+ years	
<b>PRIORITY</b>	Low	
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	Maintenance	
<b>STATUS</b>	This project has not yet been started. This action to be considered in future parking lot expansions.	

MITIGATION ACTION		SECURITY AND WARNING SYSTEM
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Alert staff and/or police department when a door is left open after normal business hours to signal if someone broke into the building.	
<b>HAZARD(S)</b>	Terrorism	
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	Unknown	
<b>FUNDING</b>	General budget, Homeland Security	
<b>TIMELINE</b>	5+ years	
<b>PRIORITY</b>	Low	
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	Superintendent	
<b>STATUS</b>	This project has not yet been started. All outer doors lock automatically and require a key fob for access. Currently there is no alarm system on doors or entry points for forced entry.	

<sup>1</sup> Nebraska Department of Education. December 2020. "2018-2019 Education Profile for District: Arlington Public Schools." <http://nep.education.ne.gov/Districts/Index/86-0001-000?DataYears=20172018>.

<sup>ii</sup> Arlington Public Schools. Accessed January 2020. <https://www.apseagles.org/>.