



BEYOND THE BELL

March 10, 2026
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HISTORICAL RESTRICTIONS ON CHILD CARE ACCESS

- ▶ **1619–1908: Enforced Labor and Domestic Work**
- ▶ **1935: Aid to Dependent Children (ADC)**
- ▶ **1938: Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)**
- ▶ **1940–1946: The Lanham Act**
- ▶ **1971: Comprehensive Child Development Act**



HISTORY OF SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE PROGRAM

The School Age Child Care (SACC) program is 50 years old

- ▶ 139 Fairfax County public elementary schools,
- ▶ 3 community centers and
- ▶ 2 specialized sites (Key and Kilmer Center)



MALADAPTIVE BEHAVIORS – EFFECT ON WAITLIST

School Year	All Students	Students with Disabilities
2022-2023	180,130	27,839
2023-2024	180,982	29,561
2024-2025	180,559	30,582

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NEED TO EVOLVE

- Growing demand for out-of-school-time child care.
- Lack of affordable options for out-of-school-time care
- Current waitlists do not accurately reflect the full scope of demand

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Fairfax County
**Neighborhood and
Community Services**



TIMELINE



July

Presented to
BOS
-
Staff
Engagement



August - September

Beyond the Bell Pilot
Program announced
-
Family Engagement
Meetings
(three in-person and
two virtual for current
and waitlisted students
at pilot sites)



October – December

Beyond the Bell begins
for current SACC students
at pilot sites
-
Waitlisted Students
moved from waitlist
(*start dates vary by
location*)



Throughout Pilot

Beyond the Bell site families
engaged to provide feedback
-
Outreach to larger SACC
community & stakeholders
-
Ongoing evaluation and
adaptation
-
End of Pilot



Fairfax County
**Neighborhood and
Community Services**




CRITERIA

- SACC waitlist size
- Vulnerability index
- Title I Designation
- The percentage of students eligible for Free and Reduced Meals
- Supervisor District Representation



VDOE LICENSE EXEMPT

SACC Operator License Status Comparison

Jurisdiction 	Primary Program Name	Current License Status	Oversight & Standards
Fairfax County	SACC / Beyond the Bell	Licensed / Exempt	Most SACC sites are Licensed . However, as of Oct 2025, 20 sites moved to the Beyond the Bell pilot, which is License-Exempt under local government rules.
Loudoun County	CASA (After-School)	License-Exempt	Loudoun PRCS transitioned CASA to a License-Exemption model (for school-age programs only) to alleviate staffing shortages and waitlists.



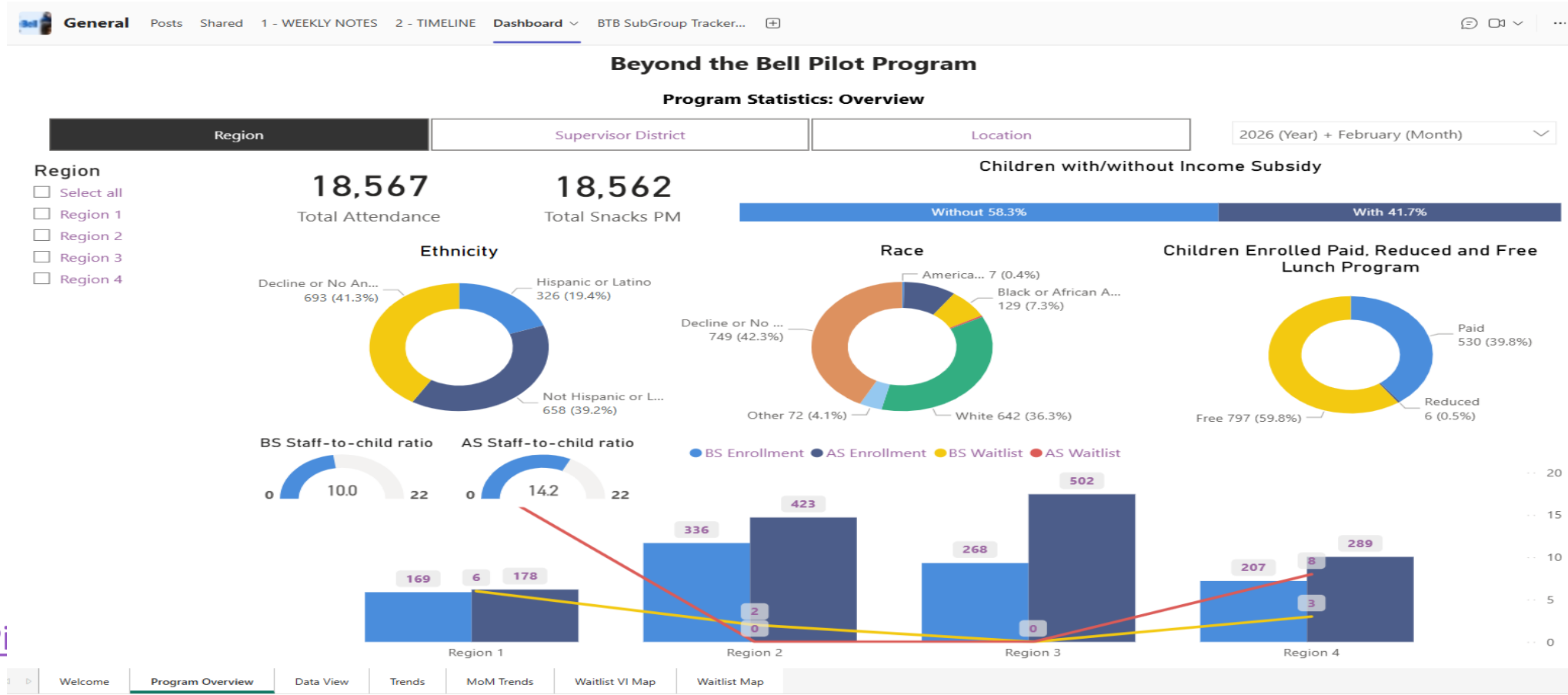
SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS COMPARISON

School Age Child Care (SACC) Operator Comparison

Jurisdiction 	Primary Program Name	Program Operator	Location Type
Fairfax County	SACC	Fairfax County Office for Children (Government)	Most Elementary Schools
Prince William County	SACC / Next Generation	AlphaBEST Education (Private Contractor)	Elementary & Middle Schools
Arlington County	Extended Day	Arlington Public Schools (School System)	All Elementary & Middle Schools
Loudoun County	CASA	Loudoun Parks, Rec & Community Services (Government)	Select Elementary Schools
Alexandria (City)	Campagna Kids / OSTP	The Campagna Center (Non-profit) & City Recreation	Elementary Schools & Rec Centers



BTB - AT A GLANCE



[Beyond the Bell Pilot Program Services](#)



BTB AT-A-GLANCE

Participation by Ethnicity	Counts	%age
Hispanic or Latino	1,331	14%
Not Hispanic or Latino	4,170	43%
Decline to Answer	2,192	22%
No Answer	2,062	21%
	9,755	100%

Participation by Race	Counts	%age
American Indian or Alaska Native	47	0%
Asian	844	8%
Black or African American	794	8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	47	0%
White	3,934	38%
Other	346	3%
Decline to Answer	2,424	23%
No Answer	1,973	19%
	10,409	100%



SY25-26 BTB RATIO DISTRIBUTION

BS Staff-Child Ratio Group	# of Locations	% of Location
1:6 to 1:10	7	35%
1:10 to 1:12	6	30%
1:12 to 1:14	6	30%
1:14 to 1:15	1	5%
Grand Total	20	100%

AS Staff-Child Ratio Group	# of Locations	% of Location
1:10 to 1:12	3	15%
1:12 to 1:14	4	20%
1:14 to 1:16	9	45%
1:16 to 1:18	3	15%
1:19 to 1:22	1	5%
Grand Total	20	100%

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MAINTAINING ESTABLISHED STANDARDS

Staff Qualifications

- Meet county's standard requirements for hiring entry-level positions.
- Background checks, first-aid/CPR certification will still be required.
- Ongoing professional development.

Quality Assurance Protocols

- Regular health and safety reviews and assessments
- Continued utilization of the Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST) Quality Standards
- After School for Program Assessments (APT)

Nurturing & Inclusive Environment

- Support of Fairfax County Public Schools for adequate space
- Experiential excursions and field trips
- Healthy and nutritious snacks offered through USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Curriculum-based programming



IMPACT

To date...

- After-school waitlist has been reduced by 78.5%.
- Before-school waitlist has been reduced by 95.3%.
- Majority of families greatly support the pilot program.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ **Increase Staff Support**
- ▶ **Enhance Funding and Resources**
- ▶ **Enhance Training**
- ▶ **Improve Support for Special Needs Services**
- ▶ **Address Space and Logistical Challenges**
- ▶ **Improve Onboarding Process**



BEYOND THE BELL MYTHS

- Regulatory Consistency and Public Trust
- Staffing Ratios and Program Quality
- Workforce Stability and Sustainability
- Family Access to Information and Transparency
- Access to Child Care Assistance
- System-Wide Impact

[Beyond the Bell vs SACC Comparison Chart](#)