

STAFF REPORT

Education Element

Ordinance No: 2020-20

Applicant: Village of Wellington

Request: Repeal the Public School Facilities Element and the Education Element and replace with the Education Element, as a part of the overall update to the Wellington Comprehensive Plan.

Project Manager:

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Boards, Committees, and Council:

	Date	Vote
Other	12/1	-----
EPC	n/a	
PZAB	TBD	
Council (1 st)	TBD	
Council (2 nd)	TBD	

Wellington Vision

A Great Hometown: Great Neighborhoods, Great Schools, and Great Parks.

Wellington Mission

To provide high-quality services that create economic, environmental, and social sustainability for residents.

Wellington Goals

- Economic Development
- Neighborhood Renaissance
- Protecting Our Investment
- Respecting the Environment
- Responsive Government

Background

The State of Florida requires municipalities to review and update, where appropriate, their Comprehensive Plan at least every seven years to reflect changes in Growth Management Laws, changing conditions within the community, updates to policies that may no longer be accurate or effective, as well as based on where the community thinks the Plan is working or not working. Wellington has been updating its Plan in this manner regularly since its initial adoption in 1999, but has not performed a complete update of the Plan; that is, until now.

Each element within the Wellington Comprehensive Plan ("Plan") is being updated, creating a document that is simple yet direct and easy to use with clear separation between this document and Wellington's Land Development Regulations. The Plan forms the blueprint for Wellington's future with a focus on the next 10 to 20 years, comprised of 10 "elements" or chapters.

1. Land Use & Community Design
2. Mobility
3. Housing & Neighborhoods
4. Public Facilities and Services
5. Conservation, Sustainability, & Resiliency
6. Parks & Recreation
7. Community Partnerships
8. Capital Improvements
9. Education
10. Equestrian

The Plan is designed to guide development and redevelopment, multimodal transportation, public facilities and infrastructure, community partnerships, parks and recreation, and capital improvements. The Plan includes several optional elements, such as the Equestrian and Education Elements, focused on community priorities generally unique to Wellington. Each element is comprised of goals, objectives, and policies to address statutory requirements as well as community priorities.

The update of the Plan will be presented to the Planning, Zoning and Adjustment Board over the course of several months with one or more elements on each Board agenda. The Council will then consider each element in a similar fashion prior to being transmitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). Once the Plan (all elements) have been approved at first reading by Council, transmitted to DEO, and ready for adoption, the full Plan will be presented to Council for adoption.

Element Update Summary

The Public School Facilities Element is recommended to be repealed. The element was required by Florida Statutes as a part of the concurrency requirements. In 2011, public schools were removed from the list of public facilities and services subject to concurrency requirements. The current element is comprised of two goals: (1) Public School Concurrency, and (2) School Facility Siting and Development Coordination. School concurrency has been replaced with “School Capacity Adequacy Determination” at the School District. In addition, Wellington joined with the District, Palm Beach County, and all municipalities in an interlocal agreement for school planning and coordination. Specific goals, objectives, and policies have been introduced into the proposed Education element to continue to focus on the need for coordinated school planning and development.

The proposed Education Element is an update of the existing element. The proposed element is comprised of three goals: (1) Education Opportunities and Facilities, (2) Extracurricular and Lifelong Learning Initiatives, and (3) Public School Coordinated Planning. These are the same themes provided in the current element as well as the coordinated school planning theme from the Public School Facilities Element. The proposed element also introduces a new objective and policies regarding “Lifelong Learning”. In general, the Education Element continues to focus on the importance of the public schools to Wellington being a Great Hometown.

Statutory Compliance

The Education Element is an optional element. In 2011, the Florida Legislature deleted schools from the list of public facilities and services subject to concurrency requirements on a statewide basis. This eliminated the requirement for a public school facilities element. This update combines the two elements into one education element.

Planning and Zoning Division Recommendation

The Planning and Zoning Division recommends approval of Ordinance No. 2020-20 to repeal the Public School Facilities and Education Elements and replace with the proposed Education Element.

List of Exhibits

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| Exhibit A: | Current Public School Facilities Element |
| Exhibit B: | Current Education Element |
| Exhibit C: | Proposed Education Element |
| Exhibit D: | Maps – Data and Analysis (not adopted) |

**Note – Statutory Compliance Checklist is not required for this item.*