

# FY 2010 Public Input Process Questions and Suggestions

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**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

Does FCPS currently have a controller general or ombudsman to answer questions from the community and to allow for public input on potential savings, efficiencies and improvements?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Fairfax County Government and FCPS are working together to gather suggestions and input from the community. There are 20 community dialogue meetings scheduled, and community members may also submit ideas to close the budget gap online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/> or via the phone by calling 703-324-9400, TTY 711.

FCPS is continuing to accept budget comments and suggestions submitted directly to FCPS at [budinfo@fcps.edu](mailto:budinfo@fcps.edu). This email address has been used by citizens to ask budget questions and provide input to FCPS for many years. In addition, school system employees have a dedicated phone number and email address available on the FCPS intranet.

FCPS budget staff will coordinate the responses to questions and suggestions from the community, employees, and the School Board. The information will be available at <http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/questions/index.htm>

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

Has FCPS explored the possibility of using or purchasing hybrid or natural gas school buses? Is there any potential cost savings associated with this initiative?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Yes, FCPS has considered both hybrid and natural gas school buses.

Since March of 2006, FCPS has participated in a hybrid school bus buyers' consortium. At this time, the additional premium for a hybrid school bus (\$80,000-\$100,000 per bus) is cost prohibitive.

In 1993, FCPS had approximately 30 compressed natural gas school buses. FCPS discontinued using these buses for multiple reasons. The range of the buses was very limited. The buses had to be fueled up every day, at a minimum, and Washington Gas currently has one fueling station located in Fairfax County (Industrial Drive). The buses were constantly breaking down, and their unreliability was the determining factor for removing these buses from the FCPS fleet.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

Has FCPS explored the possibility of allowing companies to advertise on school buses? Is there any potential revenue increases associated with this initiative?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

The use of posters, stickers, or advertising material of any kind is prohibited in or on school buses.

The Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-177 only permits local school boards to display decals depicting the flag of the United States or decals relating to local school division bus safety hotlines. These are the only materials that can be affixed to school buses.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

What is the current FCPS policy with regards to children bicycling to school? Could savings be generated by changes to this policy?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Bike racks are available at all schools and walking and bike riding are encouraged.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

What is the policy on the walking radius for FCPS schools? Can the policy be changed and if so what would be the cost savings?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Students may be required to walk to schools or bus stops up to:

- 1 mile for elementary students
- 1.5 miles for secondary students

Any increase will save some money and the School Board will review this policy.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

What is the current FCPS policy with regards to bus drivers allowing school buses to idle while waiting for children to be picked up or dropped off? Could savings be generated by changes to this policy?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Fairfax County code restricts vehicle idling to 3 minutes unless the engine is needed to perform the vehicle's mission. This code applies to all vehicles in Fairfax County. The only exception to this rule would be school buses transporting special needs children requiring air conditioning for medical reasons.

FCPS is looking at ways to measure the idling time on school buses to ensure the 3-minute idle time is not exceeded.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

How do athletic fees impact FCPS revenues?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

FCPS does not charge students a fee to participate in athletic programs. Outside of coaching stipends; local transportation; regular event officials; and police security, funding to run athletic programs is handled via local school activity funds. Revenues come from entry fees, fundraisers, and booster donations.

A proposal to charge an activity fee for each sponsored activity and athletic activity was included in the FY 2009 Proposed Budget, which would have generated approximately \$2.7 million in additional revenue for the operating fund. This fee was removed when the School Board adopted the FY 2009 Advertised Budget. Since this fee was per activity, and in addition to fundraising support provided by students and their families, families stated at the public hearings that it was potentially a hardship for many.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

Provide a breakdown of what comprises the “85 percent of FCPS costs go towards instruction.”

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

The FCPS budget is distributed across ten programs: Elementary School Education, Middle School Education, High School Education, Special Education, Adult and Community Education, Instructional Support, Student Transportation, Facilities Management, General Support, and Central Administration.

Elementary, Middle and High School Education, along with Special Education, Adult and Community Education and Instruction Support make up the “Instructional Programs” and account for 85 percent of the FY 2009 approved operating expenditures. Instructional programs include all school-based programming efforts at the elementary, middle, and high school level. In addition to core academic subjects, these programs include all specials (art, music, P.E.), special education, gifted and talented, foreign language, academies, and advanced placement courses. Instructional programs also include many activities which occur outside of the traditional classroom and include athletics, after-school programs, guidance and career services, diagnostic centers, and psychological and preventive services, as well as school-based support functions. Detailed information on each program is available in the FY 2009 Approved Program Budget Book: <http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/documents/approved/2009/ApprovedProgramBudget2009.pdf>

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

Compare and contrast FCPS membership growth to that in Prince William County

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Below please find a chart detailing the enrollment data for both FCPS and Prince William County Public Schools. From FY 2004 to FY 2009, FCPS' enrollment increased by 1.29% while Prince William's increased by 15.40%. Overall, Prince William County's enrollment is less than half that of Fairfax County Public Schools.

<b>Division</b>	<b>FY 2004 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2005 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2006 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2007 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2008 Actual</b>	<b>Percent Increase from FY 2004-FY 2008</b>
<b>FCPS</b>	164,195	164,408	164,284	164,486	166,307	1.29%
<b>Prince William</b>	63,342	66,424	68,519	71,187	73,094	15.40%

## Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Public Process - Fall 2008

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

What savings would be associated with eliminating the middle school AVID program and the IB Middle Years programme?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) is a program designed to meet the needs of middle and high school students “in the middle”—students who, with support have the potential to succeed in a rigorous course of study and go on to attend and graduate from a four-year college or university.

If this program were to be eliminated, the projected savings would be:

FT salaries	\$88,154	(1.0 position to oversee 16 sites)
Hourly salaries	418,602	(tutors, curriculum development)
Benefits	64,640	
Operating	<u>176,083</u>	(materials, supplies, professional development, AVID membership fees)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$747,479</b>	

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBMYP) offers a student-centered, holistic program of international education that supports FCPS strategic student achievement goals for academics, essential life skills, and responsibility to the community.

If this program were to be eliminated, the projected savings would be:

FT salaries	\$467,935	(6.5 positions across 15 school campuses)
Hourly salaries	52,387	(curriculum development, teacher training and vertical articulation)
Benefits	177,144	
Operating	<u>132,400</u>	(required professional development and IBMYP accreditation fees)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$829,866</b>	

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

How much does FCPS currently expend on 10th grade PSAT fees?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

FCPS spent \$125,100 on PSAT test fees during the 2007-2008 school year, the most recent for which figures are available. The budget for the current school year is \$129,450.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

How do FCPS teacher salaries compare to surrounding jurisdictions?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

The chart below is a comparison of the bachelor's level and master's level minimum, maximum, and midpoint on the scales. Fairfax County Public Schools ranks second at both the bachelor's and master's level beginning salary and ranks third and sixth, respectively, at the maximum salary.

Local School Jurisdiction	Bachelor's			Master's		
	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum
Alexandria City	\$42,671	\$58,156	\$73,640	\$48,944	\$69,611	\$90,278
Arlington County	\$43,910	\$56,236	\$68,561	\$48,412	\$70,145	\$91,878
Loudoun County	\$43,065	\$63,359	\$83,652	\$48,289	\$69,525	\$90,761
Montgomery County	\$46,410	\$54,306	\$62,201	\$51,128	\$74,047	\$96,966
Prince William County	\$42,354	\$64,720	\$87,085	\$47,319	\$69,685	\$92,050
Local School Average	\$43,682	\$59,355	\$75,028	\$48,818	\$70,823	\$92,827
FCPS	\$44,789	\$59,643	\$78,449	\$50,223	\$69,466	\$88,708

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

How much would FCPS save by eliminating teacher workdays?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

The current standard calendar includes one hundred and eighty-three instructional days, seven teacher workdays, and four staff development days. The days are assigned during the year to provide time for classroom setup, team planning, parent meetings, end-of-quarter grade reporting, training and collaboration. Reducing the teacher's contract would save an estimated \$5.8 million per day when salary sensitive employee benefits are included.

# **Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

How much would FCPS save by eliminating instructional coaches and using seasoned teachers to coach new teachers?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by the Fairfax County Public Schools

FCPS already uses seasoned teachers to coach new teachers after school. This mentoring is a key component of Great Beginnings, FCPS Teacher Induction Program. The coaches who work with new teachers receive a stipend for their work.

The instructional coach has a very different role. The instructional coach role is part teacher, part teacher leader, part change agent, and part facilitator. The mission is to assist new and experienced teachers in learning and applying the new knowledge and skills necessary to improve the academic performance of all students in reading and math.

Second, instructional coaches spend a significant portion of the school day in direct contact with teachers, in their schools and classrooms. Sample activities that instructional coaches do include:

- Plan with individual teachers
- Use data to work with groups of teachers to align instruction and assessment to SOL in language arts and math (curriculum mapping and common assessment)
- Provide demonstration lessons
- Facilitate site-based classroom visits to see and learn from other teachers
- Co-teach with another teacher and debrief co-taught lessons
- Organize and facilitate grade level, subject, and/or team meetings
- Organize and facilitate study groups, school-based professional development and workshops, and book studies
- Refer individual teachers to internal and external resources

Instructional coaches are part of the federally funded Title II A Class Size Reduction and Coaches program. Serving 30 schools in FY 2009, this program allows schools to choose between a class size reduction option and an instructional coach. In FY 2009, a total of 18 schools elected an instructional coach. In FY 2009, the total cost of this program, including both coaches and class size reduction components is \$2,902,674. Of this amount, offsetting revenue of \$1,824,603 is provided by federal Title II A funds. The net cost of this program in FY 2009 is \$1,078,071.

In addition to the 18 Title II instructional coaches, there are an additional 22 FCPS coaches funded by the Department of Professional Learning and Training's operating budget. These 22 coaches are assigned to schools based on the Cluster assistant superintendent(s) recommendations or needs. In FY 2009, the cost of these 22 coaches is approximately \$1,633,900.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

Why does FCPS fund teachers for Homebound/Homebased services for students who are out of school on drug-related violations?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by the Fairfax County Public Schools

Students who receive homebased services are awaiting the outcome of an FCPS disciplinary process, and are generally receiving special education services. Homebound services are provided to students who are unable to attend school due to a serious medical reason.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires that school divisions provide services to enable a student with a disability to progress in the general curriculum and appropriately advance toward achieving the goals of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) during periods of disciplinary removal, regardless of the violation. For students with disabilities, homebased services are one option that IEP teams may consider as a means of providing those services. Services continue while the disciplinary proceedings are pending and until the student begins a new placement as determined by the IEP team.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

What savings would be generated by reducing the academy counselors' contracts from 11 months to 10 months, like the other school counselors in FCPS?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by the Fairfax County Public Schools

A reduction of 5.0 academy counselor positions is included in the potential reductions for FY 2010. If they are included as part of FY 2010 reductions, a cost savings of approximately \$28,000 would be realized by reducing the contract length of 5.5 positions from 11 month (218 day) to 10 month (203 day).

# **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

Require a small fee for participating in 4th grade strings and band programs that require additional staffing. Fees would be on sliding scale.

**Response**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Revenue-generating initiatives such as this will likely be considered by the School Board in the development of the FY 2010 budget.

## **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

Convert incandescent light bulbs to CFL's.

Don't send a zillion SOL-practice packets (tons of photocopies!!!) home. Make them available online.

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

The Office of Facilities Management continues to improve the energy efficiency of FCPS buildings through operational changes and by installing energy saving equipment and light bulbs wherever possible. As a result, energy consumption per square foot has been declining since FY 2003. Electricity consumption per square foot in FY 2007 was 6.7 percent below FY 2003 kWh's consumed, and we appreciate your suggestion to continue this trend.

In recent years Blackboard.com has become available to all classrooms enabling teachers to transmit electronic documents to both parents and students, such as SOL document packets. FCPS teachers will continue to utilize available technology to reduce paper output.

## **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

Reduce county/school board supervisors salaries. Enact term limits for current members.

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

The Code of Virginia establishes conditions and limits on school board salaries. The Code requires that school boards not having staggered terms (such as the Fairfax County School Board) may only set salary increases prior to July 1 of any year in which members are to be elected, so no salary increase may become effective during an incumbent member's term of office. School Board member salaries also cannot exceed the salaries of the local governing body (the Board of Supervisors).

The total amount of salaries for school board members is \$242,000. The School Board is reviewing their office in addition to other FCPS departments.

## **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

Send home student's report cards, forms, newsletters, etc. instead of mailing these to parents/guardians

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Thank you for your suggestion. As part of FCPS' Program Review, we are considering options to streamline communications with parents. Options are being considered that will allow FCPS to reduce postage and printing while still ensuring that all families will have access to information.

## **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

In New York state all the schools take a week off in February to cut back on energy costs. They began this in the 70's and discovered it worked so well they might as well keep it. They have also found that it cuts back on days of school missed for vacations.

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Previous consideration of adjusting school schedules, as a cost saving initiative, indicated that any cost savings generated in the winter months will evaporate due to increased cooling cost by extending the school year into the summer months.

## **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

Go back to having students pay for their own AP exams.

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

This was considered, but not adopted during the FY 2009 budget process. Revenue-generating initiatives will be considered in the development of the FY 2010 budget.

# **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

Set up fees for bus riders. Have more children walk to school and let them attend schools close to home rather than busing them. Have parents who choose a gifted program for their kids - drive their own kids to that school and not provide busing.

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Eligibility to ride school buses is based on the following:

- Transportation is required for certain students with special needs as defined by federal law.
- The Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-176 permits local school boards to provide transportation for eligible students based upon acceptable walking distances, but does not require them to do so.
- State law requires transportation for students who reside in the designated school attendance area but beyond the established walking distances which are:
  - 1 mile for elementary students
  - 1.5 miles for secondary students
  - Exceptions are made for safety purposes and as defined in the regulation for an exception to ride.

Pertinent to the Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-176 fees may be charged when a school board provides transportation to pupils for extracurricular activities, other than those covered by an activity fund, which are sponsored by the pupils' school apart from the regular instructional program and which the pupils are not required to attend or participate in. The school board may accept contributions for such transportation or charge each pupil utilizing such transportation a reasonable fee not to exceed his pro rata share of the cost of providing such transportation. A school board may waive such fees for any pupil whose parent or guardian is financially unable to pay them. When a school board provides transportation to pupils for field trips which are a part of the program of the pupils' school or are sponsored by such school, the school board may accept contributions for such transportation.

The Department of Facilities and Transportation is reviewing all transportation programs as part of FCPS' Program Review.

## **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

1. I believe the ATS department in FCPS is wonderful. However, I do believe we have too many layers. The TSPECS are tremendous! But, the ATS teachers, or resource people who visit the schools and have us make referrals to them so we can get software, are a waste.
2. ISRTs --- waste of resources and would be better used as full time teachers.
3. Reduce the amount of funding to the autism program.

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

As part of the FY 2009 budget reductions, Assistive Technology Services and Inclusive Schools Resource Teacher positions were reduced by 2.0 and 8.0 positions respectively.

Additional funding for autism is detailed on pages 51 and 53 of the FY 2008 Program Budget and was approved by the School Board approximately 5 years ago. (see <http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/documents/approved/2008/ApprovedProgramBudget08.pdf>)

The School Board and FCPS staff will be evaluating all program areas for FY 2010.

## **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

Get rid of the Blackberries for the specialists/teachers. They don't really need them.

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Telecommunication devices are not routinely assigned to specialists and teachers. However, some positions, such as itinerant specialists or teachers who are assigned to several schools and have no permanent office, do receive these devices.

## **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

Have they thought of having 4 days weeks for school similar to the FC government?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

The Code of Virginia mandates a minimum of 180 teaching days or 990 hours. The code further states that "Individual schools may propose, and local school boards may approve, pursuant to guidelines developed by the Board of Education, alternative school schedule plans providing for the operation of schools on a four-day weekly calendar, so long as a minimum of 990 hours of instructional time is provided for in grades one through twelve..." Savings would consist of heating/cooling, electricity, and transportation. This suggestion will be shared with the School Leadership Team.

## **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

Eliminate the Chinese FLES at Oak Hill. Rather, expand language immersion availability since additional staffing would not be required. (These are two suggestions combined.)

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Detailed program information for all of FCPS' programs, including Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (FLES) and Foreign Language Immersion are available in the FCPS Program Budget available at <http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/documents/index.htm>.

The Department of Instructional Services works with schools and the cluster assistant superintendents when determining what programs and languages to offer at each school and to ensure that the needed courses are provided for students as they move from elementary to middle and high school. These programs are being reviewed as well.

# **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

Shorten the school year by closing school two weeks earlier each summer.

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

State law stipulates the number of instructional days/hours that must be achieved during the school year. School days could be made longer to shorten the number of days. Savings would have to be calculated for heating, electricity, and transportation costs.

# **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

Advertisements on school buses

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

The use of posters, stickers, or advertising material of any kind is prohibited in or on school buses. The Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-177 only permits local school boards to display decals depicting the flag of the United States or decals relating to local school division bus safety hotlines. These are the only materials that can be affixed to school buses.

# **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

During school breaks, all schools should be closed and employees should be charged leave.

**Response:**

The following responses are provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Employees are hired on different contract lengths depending on the required duties of the position. For example, the standard classroom teacher's contract length is 194 days. Teachers do not work over school breaks and these days are not part of their contract. Over breaks, some employees are required to work to complete necessary functions. Many other activities including school-aged child care, community use, adult and community education, and parks and recreation classes are held in school buildings during school breaks.

**Suggestion:**

Employees within two years of retirement should be offered incentives to retire early.

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

The Virginia Retirement System (VRS) is the primary retirement system for most FCPS employees. Because the VRS is run by the state of Virginia, FCPS does not have the direct ability to offer any early incentives. In addition to VRS constraints, FCPS would stand to lose valuable insight and human resources if a significant percentage of senior employees retired simultaneously.

## **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

Eliminate the free breakfast program in high schools.

**Response:**

The following response is provided by the Fairfax County Public Schools

Fairfax County Public Schools offers breakfast under the National School Breakfast and Lunch program, which is governed under federal, state, and local policies and regulations. Students who are eligible and have been approved, based on family income, for free or reduced meals can utilize their benefit during the breakfast program, which is entirely federally funded. Students who are not eligible for free or reduced meals pay the full breakfast meal price, currently \$1.50 for all students.

The National School Breakfast program provides a necessary service for many students who would otherwise not be able to obtain a nutritious breakfast. Studies have shown that students who eat breakfast are more alert in class, achieve higher academic performance, maintain better health, and exhibit better behavior in school. Eliminating this federally funded program would adversely impact student academic performance.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

Please distinguish the cost differential between the AP and the IB programs at the high school level.

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools.

Eight FCPS high schools offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program and 18 high schools and the online campus offer the Advanced Placement (AP) program. Below is the cost differential broken down by types of fees:

**Membership:**

The IB scale of fees includes an annual fee for each school of \$9,150; those schools offering both the Middle Years Program and the diploma program receive a discounted fee of \$8,819. The annual fee includes access to the IB curriculum in all subjects, the online curriculum center, teacher support, and a 5-year evaluation process.

Membership in the College Board is \$325 annually; however, schools are not required to be members to administer AP examinations. Fairfax County Public Schools is a member organization.

**Examination Fees:**

IB schools pay a registration fee of \$129 per student and \$88 per examination, including the extended essay and Theory of Knowledge for diploma students.

AP examinations are \$86 each; however, FCPS receives a reduced rate of \$75 per exam because of the large volume of tests taken.

**Teacher Training:**

Workshop fees for training IB and AP teachers are comparable at about \$600 per training. However, because of the large number of teachers trained, FCPS offers its own AP Summer Institute at a lower cost of about \$550 per teacher. Additional savings are realized because there are no travel expenses. Costs for teachers trained outside the county (IB and AP) average about \$1,600.

**Other Costs:**

There are other minimal fees such as results reporting that are paid for by the local schools for each program.

# **Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

How and when is eligibility for Head Start and the Free and Reduced-Price Meals Program determined?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools.

**FECEP/Head Start**

Family income provides the basis for eligibility for federal, state, or local spaces in the FECEP/Head Start program. Applications for the following school year begin in January. During the pre-application screening process, families are asked to verify their child's age, number of people in the immediate family, and gross income. If the family's reported income is within reduced-price meals guidelines, they are then eligible to apply to the program.

Eligible families officially apply through an application site where they are required to provide documentation verifying county residency and income along with each child's age.

Additional information can be found on the Fairfax County Public School's website at:  
<http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OECFS/fecep/>

**Free and Reduced-Price Meals**

Free and reduced-price meal eligibility is based on income and household size as established by federal guidelines. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year as need arises, but the majority of applications are received and reviewed by Food and Nutrition Services during the first month of school with official eligibility figures provided to the state based on October 31 data.

Additional information can be found on the Fairfax County Public School's website at:  
[http://www.fcps.edu/fs/food/food\\_at\\_school/free\\_reduced/index.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/fs/food/food_at_school/free_reduced/index.htm)

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

How much would FCPS save by eliminating modified calendars from schools?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

This program is being considered for elimination as part of the Superintendent's 3-tiered budget reduction options for FY 2010. Tier 1 and 2 reductions would eliminate the secondary school program at Glasgow Middle School and Stuart and Falls Church High Schools for a savings of \$0.2 million. If Tier 3 reductions are necessary, the elementary program (seven schools) would also be eliminated for a total savings of \$2.7 million.

For more information on the 3-tiered budget reduction plan:  
<http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2010/reductionimpacts.pdf>

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

How much money does FCPS receive from the Virginia Lottery?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools.

Last year the General Assembly changed the way lottery proceeds are allocated. In FY 2008, FCPS received \$9.0 million from the Virginia Lottery with the stipulation that no more than 50 percent of this funding be used for recurring items and at least 50 percent must be used for nonrecurring items such as construction, renovations, technology, and other expenditures related to modernizing classroom equipment.

In FY 2009, FCPS will receive \$17.7 million under a new category entitled Lottery Funded Programs. However, of this amount, almost half is earmarked for ten existing programs, such as at-risk, early reading intervention, K-3 primary class reduction, remedial summer school and other small programs (formerly categorized as Incentive or Categorical accounts). After these programs are funded, the remaining funds (approximately \$9.0 million) will be available for additional support for school construction and operating costs, approximately the same amount as in FY 2008.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

How much money is generated from high school parking permits?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

In FY 2008, a total of \$1.1 million was collected from the sale of high school parking permits. Of the total collected each year, high schools retain 15 percent in their local funds accounts and the remaining 85 percent, \$0.9 million in FY 2008, is reported in the Operating Fund.

## **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

Reduce or eliminate programs and services for non-English speaking students.

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Federal and state laws require that students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) be educated appropriately. Local school divisions and states must accurately and meaningfully assess both the English language proficiency and the academic achievement of LEP students.

Upon registering in FCPS, all language minority students are assessed, in compliance with federal guidelines, to determine their level of English language proficiency. Students with limited English proficiency (LEP Levels 1 through 4) are provided English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services as an integrated part of their instructional program at their school. ESOL teachers work collaboratively with other instructional school staff to develop students' proficiency by teaching English through the content areas of math, science, social studies, and language arts.

## **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

FCPS should temporarily cut the library budget to help balance the deficit. Schools could defer the purchase of new materials or seek contributions of materials from parents or community members.

**Response**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

A \$1.5 million (5 percent) reduction in the library budget is being considered as part of the Superintendent's 3-tiered budget reduction options for FY 2010.

For more information on the 3-tiered budget reduction plan:

<http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2010/reductionimpacts.pdf>

Many schools utilize volunteers in their libraries and engage in fundraisers where portions of the proceeds are directed towards the purchase of new materials or resources that will be used by the library. These activities will continue in FY 2010.

## **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:**Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

Does Fairfax City need a superintendent and staff? Could the few schools involved be absorbed into the county?

**Response :**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Before the City of Fairfax gained independent city status in 1961, it was a town in Fairfax County and the schools were a part of the FCPS school system. Once a city, however, the state requires the city to operate an independent school system. Following the change in city status for Fairfax City, a contract was entered into with FCPS to continue to manage and operate the schools.

The City of Fairfax currently has a six-person School Board dedicated to overseeing this contract and is responsible for the management of the school facilities, which are all owned by the City. Fairfax City maintains four educational facilities:

1. Daniels Run Elementary School
2. Providence Elementary School
3. Lanier Middle School
4. Fairfax High School

While the City School Board retains ownership of the City's school buildings, all facets of student education are provided for by FCPS teachers and staff. Annually, the City of Fairfax is assessed on a per-pupil basis and remits tuition payments to FCPS based on the number of Fairfax City students enrolled in each of the four City schools. The tuition paid by the City of Fairfax covers all costs associated with educating these students. The FCPS FY 2009 Approved Budget total for the Fairfax City Education Contract is \$37.7 million.

FCPS and Fairfax City work cooperatively. As there is some overlap in boundaries, students residing in Fairfax County may attend Fairfax City schools. The reciprocal is also true.

Fairfax City has an independent Superintendent who reports directly to the City of Fairfax. The primary duties of the Fairfax City Superintendent are to:

1. Oversee the City/County agreement.
2. Ensure that the four school buildings owned by the city have the capacity to meet program and community needs.
3. Provide additional resources to City schools that support the goals of the community.
4. Provide information about and promote City schools throughout the community.

Because tuition payments cover FCPS costs, FCPS would not accrue any savings through the absorption of Fairfax City public schools into FCPS.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

What savings would be generated by eliminating Adult and Community Education (ACE) programs?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

In FY 2009, a \$1.7 million transfer will be made from the School Operating Fund to the ACE Fund. However, as part of the Superintendent's 3-tier budget reduction options for FY 2010 this transfer will be eliminated and the program will be self-supporting.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

Can FCPS train Inclusive Schools Resource Teachers (ISRT) to provide Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) support at the secondary level? This would cut the funds currently used for Autism Partnership and create a better knowledge-base of ABA within each school cluster.

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

The reorganization of the Department of Special Services will result in the development of a cadre of staff members highly trained in a variety of research-based instructional and behavioral interventions targeted to meet the needs of students with low incidence disabilities. These staff members will provide specialized PreK-12 support to schools.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

How much money might be saved by eliminating Work After Retirement (WAR)?

**Response:**

he following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

None. The WAR program was terminated for new entrants effective July 1, 2004. Persons who retired under the program prior to that time are legally entitled to their retirement benefits which are paid by the ERFC Trust Fund.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

How much funding could be saved by reducing standards for educating students under the “least restrictive environment” by moving students requiring one or more dedicated staff members to a central location?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

Each student with a disability has an Individualized Education Program (IEP), which is developed by a team that includes school staff members and parents. This team is responsible for determining how a student receives his or her special education services. Moving students with disabilities from their neighborhood schools to central sites where services are clustered on a large scale would not be consistent with the least restrictive environment provision of IDEA.

Although moving students to central locations where special education services and supports are clustered might result in efficiencies in resources, materials, and staff members, it is unclear how much could be saved because the number of students who would be moving to the central locations is unknown. Additional costs such as transportation would also need to be considered.

## **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

FCPS should ask the state to allow individual school districts to open for fewer than 180 days.

**Response :**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools:

State law stipulates the number of instructional days and/or hours that students must attend during each school year. The state of Virginia has determined that this school year length enables students to adequately master the content necessary to meet Standards of Quality requirements. Elementary and middle schools currently have the option to operate fewer than 180 days by increasing the length of the school day so that there are 990 hours of instruction per year. It is not considered optimal to student learning to operate fewer days with longer hours.

## **Analysis of Suggestions for Improvement as part of the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Suggested By:** Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

With the potential for increased class sizes, teachers should spend more time with students in core classes. With this in mind, FCPS should reduce the number of classes at the middle school level from seven to six. This would reduce the number of student electives from two to one. The reduction of one class period would then allow schools to increase instructional time for the remaining six classes and reduce the number of elective teachers.

**Response:**

The overall purpose for implementing the seven period day was to expand course opportunities for students to receive a more comprehensive and well-balanced educational program. Middle school students, by state standards, are required to take a full-year program of English, mathematics, science, social studies, and physical education in grades 7 and 8 with two elective choices. With the seven period day, students enrolled in special education, ESOL, year-long music or foreign language have an opportunity to select an additional elective course each year.

The seven period day for middle school also allows for more instructional time in specific core classes. Students can be enrolled in intervention classes in lieu of one of their semester elective classes, affording additional time for English and mathematics. Reducing the number of periods per day from seven to six would limit the ability of schools to provide this additional instructional time. Research shows that additional time for skill development and support in core classes is crucial for the success of at-risk students.

Research also supports the exploration of elective courses at the middle school level which reflect individual needs, talents, and interests leading to future career choices. Reducing the day from seven to six periods would limit the ability of middle school students to explore a variety of electives.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Public Input Process

**Question:**

Could FCPS save funds on new schools and additions to existing schools (e.g. Stenwood Elementary) by re-opening Dunn Loring as an Elementary school?

**Response:**

The proposal to acquire Gatehouse II at 8111 Gatehouse Road includes moving staff from Dunn Loring to this new central office so that Dunn Loring can be returned to use as an elementary school in the future. We do not anticipate that the timing is such that it would address capacity needs at Stenwood. Projections indicate that Dunn Loring will be needed for student enrollment increases resulting from the Tyson's development activity.

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

PUB-019

Request By: Public Input Process/Sherwood

**Question:**

Please provide a breakdown of FCPS enrollment (special education, ESOL, Free/Reduced Lunch) by cluster.

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools.

The chart below reflects the FY 2009 approved enrollment projections for elementary, middle, and high schools. The free and reduced-price meals (FRM) and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) student enrollment projections are included in the FY 2009 total approved projections. Students may be counted in both FRM and ESOL. Alternative high schools, special education centers, preschool, and FECEP are not included.

<b>Cluster</b>	<b>General Education Projections for Grades K-12</b>	<b>Special Education Level 2 Projections</b>	<b>Total FY 2009 Approved Projections</b>	<b>FRM Student Projections</b>	<b>ESOL Student Projections</b>
1	18,266	1,196	19,462	2,089	1,703
2	14,951	1,328	16,279	3,217	2,393
3	20,346	1,567	21,913	7,020	4,716
4	19,434	1,517	20,951	7,156	3,071
5	15,511	1,312	16,823	5,050	3,012
6	19,912	1,378	21,290	2,296	1,881
7	21,503	1,580	23,083	3,478	2,597
8	21,173	1,476	22,649	3,602	2,280
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>151,096</b>	<b>11,354</b>	<b>162,450</b>	<b>33,908</b>	<b>21,653</b>

**Response to Questions on the FY 2010  
County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Public Process - Fall 2008**

**PUB-438**

Request By: Public Input Process

**Question:**

Could FCPS track the amount spent on educating students who are in the country illegally and attending FCPS schools?

**Response:**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools.

The Code of Virginia under Section 22.1-3 requires school divisions to accept students who meet residency requirements and may not deny a free public education to undocumented school-age children who reside within their jurisdictions because they do not hold valid United States citizenship or a student visa. Immigration status is not a part of a student's scholastic record, and notification of immigration status is not made by FCPS to any government agency. FCPS is prohibited from inquiring into a prospective student's citizenship or visa status.

**Analysis of Suggestions for FCPS Improvement as part of the FY 2010  
County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes  
Fall 2008**

**PUBS-404**

Suggested By: Public Input Process

**Suggestion:**

FCPS should consider outsourcing as a means to reduce infrastructure including busing, security, custodial, and cafeteria services.

**Response**

The following response is provided by Fairfax County Public Schools.

FCPS has considered outsourcing in the past with mixed results. Custodial services are contracted at many administrative centers. Transportation provided information some years ago to the major private school bus contractor in the country who was interested in submitting a bid to manage the fleet for FCPS. That contractor reviewed our budget and service data and concluded that they could not provide the same level of service for the same price. We do not believe that the school system would be well served to consider other privatization such as security and food services.

Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) is a self supporting program. No local tax dollars are utilized to operate the program. Funding is derived from student meals, contracted services to senior citizens, day cares, private schools, and vending. Additionally, FNS makes annual contributions to the School Operating Fund to cover the cost of any FCPS resources that it uses. The FNS contribution to the School Operating Fund is estimated to be \$2.6 million in FY 2009. FNS also splits equally all profits received from vending machine sales with the schools.