

Budget Update

March 28, 2008



**Building the Future...
Child by Child**
FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introduction

On February 14, 2008, the School Board adopted the FY 2009 advertised budget. On Tuesday, April 1, Dan Storck, School Board chairman, will present this FY 2009 advertised budget to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The School Board and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors want children and all citizens throughout the county to benefit from their efforts.

This Week's Topic: Fairfax County and FCPS Work Together to Support Our Children's Future

Real and personal property tax dollars are the primary revenue sources for Fairfax County. The Board of Supervisors approves a transfer from county funds to FCPS to finance the School Operating Fund. If the School Board's request for a 4 percent transfer increase is approved, the County General Fund transfer (local tax dollars) will provide 73.0 percent of the School Operating Fund's revenue.

On Tuesday evening, April 1, the School Board's chairman, Dan Storck, will present the School Board's FY 2009 advertised budget and request for funding to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Before the budget was sent to the Board of Supervisors for review, budget reductions of approximately \$33 million and more than 300 positions were taken—including an increase of .5 students in class size across the school system, \$10 million in central office cuts, and a redesign of summer school.

After making significant budget reductions, the School Board has requested a transfer increase of 4 percent from Fairfax County because it must continue to meet high community expectations, rigorous student achievement goals, and a growing student population.

If FCPS does not receive any increase in the county transfer, the School Board will be forced to make deeper cuts of more than \$63 million, including possible reduction of a market-scale adjustment for employees and further class size increases.

Because property values have declined this year, county property tax revenue will be lower. One option the Board of Supervisors is considering is to increase the tax rate (the amount of tax paid for each \$100 of property value) by up to 3 cents. This would not increase the amount of tax that the average property owner would pay compared to last year because of declining property assessments.

Fairfax County citizens have high expectations for their schools. FCPS and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors share the joint responsibility of providing the best schools and the best education for Fairfax County's children. A weak local real estate market and a flat economy are making that task difficult.

Members of the public may comment on budget priorities at School Board public hearings on May 14, and, if needed, May 15, 2008, at Jackson Middle School. The Board of Supervisors holds budget public hearings March 31-April 2, 2008.

Next Week's Topic: FCPS Realizes High Student Academic Achievement

For current budget information: www.fcps.edu/fs

To ask a question, e-mail: budinfo@fcps.edu or call 571-423-3600

To voice comments on advertised budget priorities: www.fcps.edu, Budget Ideas

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Fairfax County, Virginia
www.fcps.edu