

Budget Update

March 7, 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. The FY 2009 advertised operating budget totals \$2.3 billion, which is an increase of \$75.5 million, or 3.5 percent over the FY 2008 approved budget and \$29.6 million, or 1.3 percent, over the FY 2008 estimate.

This Week's Topic: Fairfax County's Budget Directly Affects Fairfax County Public Schools

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors lists "strong investment in education" first among its priorities. For FY 2009, Anthony Griffin, Fairfax County executive, proposes that \$1,741.2 million be transferred to Fairfax County Public Schools, which represents more than 52 percent of the county's total General Fund budget. While the School Board's advertised budget requests a 4 percent increase, the proposal holds the transfer flat, or at a 0 percent increase. The county executive explains that "in accordance with the Board's [of Supervisors] budget guidelines, the transfer for school operations has been held to the FY 2008 level and county spending has been held flat." Fairfax County provides FCPS funding through two transfers: one to support school system operations and another to support debt service for bond-funded projects to build new schools and renew older facilities.

When compared with other school divisions in Virginia, Fairfax County funds a much larger portion of its school budget with local funds. The average Virginia school division receives approximately half of its financial support from its local government, while FCPS must rely on local funds for almost three-quarters of its budget. Conversely, FCPS receives only 21 percent of its funding from the state, significantly less than the average 43 percent share other Virginia school divisions receive.

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. The County General Fund transfer (local tax dollars) will provide 73.0 percent of the School Operating Fund's revenue.

In presenting his budget, Griffin noted, "The ramifications to both the schools and the county of this constrained budget will be significant."

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. The School Board will present its FY 2009 advertised budget to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, April 1.

Fairfax
County
Public
Schools



Fairfax County, Virginia
www.fcps.edu

Next Week's Topic: FCPS Employs Teachers Who Are Both School-Based and Nonschool-Based

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