

# **Fairfax County Public Schools** FY 2013 Proposed Budget News

## Coming in February: School Nutrition News

January marks the beginning of the budget process for the Fairfax County School Board. Superintendent Jack Dale released the FY 2013 Proposed Budget based on priorities set by the School Board. The \$2.4 billion proposed budget is a 9 percent increase (\$202.3 million) over the FY 2012 budget.

# This Just In:

The total number of FCPS students taking AP and IB exams continues to rise. More than 16,100 students (5.4 percent increase) took AP exams and more than 2,600 students (2.1 percent increase) took IB exams in 2011.

The proposed budget includes 721.3 new positions. most of which are being added to address rising enrollment -- projected to be 181,608 students in FY 2013. In addition to increased

enrollment, the proposed budget also takes into consideration changes in student demographics, including an increase in the number of students receiving English for

## **Upcoming Important Dates**

January 30, 31	School Board Budget Public Hearings (Jackson Middle School)	May 1
February 2	School Board Budget Work Session (Jackson Middle School)	May 10
February 9	School Board Adopts FY 2013 Advertised Budget	May 15, 16
February 21	County Executive Releases FY 2013 Advertised County Budget	May 17
February 21	County Board of Supervisors Advertises Tax Rate	May 24
April 10-12	County Board of Supervisors Budget Public Hearings	July 1

School Board Presents Budget to County Board of Supervisors County Board of Supervisors Approves the FY 2013 Adopted County Budget, Transfer Amount to Schools School Board FY 2013 Approved Budget Presented for New Business School Board Public Hearings (Jackson Middle School) School Board Budget Work Session (Jackson Middle School) School Board Adopts FY 2013 Approved Budget FY 2013 Begins

Speakers of Other Languages services and

reduced-price meals. Extended learning

time for students and extended time for

teachers are also included in the budget.

of our budget, 85.9 percent, and the major-

ket scale adjustment and a step increase for

eligible employees as well as a salary adjust-

place in order to attract the best employees

FCPS receives the majority of its

funding from Fairfax County and this year

FY 2012. The FY 2013 Proposed Budget

will request an increase of 8.4 percent over

includes an increase in state funding due to

increasing enrollment and the state's update

to the Local Composite Index. However, fed-

eral revenue is decreasing due to the loss of

ment for custodial positions. "It is impera-

tive FCPS stay competitive in the market-

to support student success," said Dale.

ity of our positions, 94.6 percent, directly

to instructional programs," said Dale. The proposed budget includes a 2 percent mar-

"We continue to dedicate the majority

the number of students eligible for free and

one-time Federal Education Jobs funding.

The projected cost per pupil for FY 2013 will be \$13,654, an increase of 6.5 percent over FY 2012. FCPS ranks fifth among 10 area school systems in cost per pupil and has the lowest percentage of leadership team and management positions in relation to total positions of all Washington area school systems for FY 2012, according to the Washington Area Boards of Education.

FCPS operates 196 schools and centers including 139 elementary schools, 23 middle schools, 3 secondary schools, 24 high schools, and 7 special education centers. Two new schools will open in FY 2013, an elementary school at the Lacey site in Annandale and a middle school at the South County site in Lorton.



Instruction 85.9% Transportation 5.4% Facilities Management 4.1% General Support 4.5%

\*Does not add due to rounding



**Getting To Know Us** 

# FCPS Budget Coordinator Matthew Norton

Determining an operating budget for a school system the size of Fairfax County is a lengthy and detailed process. A critical component of the budget is calculating the number of staff needed at each school based on student enrollment and the services provided.

Matthew Norton, a coordinator for budget services, works closely with the schools to determine appropriate staffing levels for each school and its programs.

"My job involves collecting large amounts



of data from various sources including enrollment, free and reduced-price meals eligibility, special education services and enrollment. square footage of

buildings, and other information and assimilating it so we can determine the number of teachers, instructional assistants, special education assistants, assistant principals, administrative, custodial, and other positions that will be budgeted for each school building," said Norton.

He also works with the Department of Special Services to calculate how many students will need special services and what will be the cost of providing those services.

Norton has worked for FCPS for more than 12 years. He says his greatest challenge is working with the large volume of data and helping schools understand the process and the calculations used to determine staffing.

"One of the challenges is that the budget process is very fluid from the time Dr. Dale proposes the budget, through finding out how much the county government will transfer to the school system, to the time the budget is actually approved by the School Board," said Norton. "But it's a detailed process I enjoy being a part of."

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# Fairfax County School Board 2012-2016

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# Want to Get Involved?

- Learn more at the FCPS budget website at http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2013.shtml Attend School Board meetings or watch live
- on Red Apple 21. Speak at a School Board public hearing
- (http://www.fcps.edu/schlbd/meetings/request speak.shtml).
- Speak at a Board of Supervisors public hearing (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/ speaker bos.htm).

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