

FY 2018 Arlington County and Public Schools Joint Budget Forum

Group Feedback

11/30/2016

What are the important priorities that should be considered for the FY 2018 Arlington County budget?

- School Funding
- Metro funding
- Continued communication between Schools and County
 - Provide more information on the transfer from County to Schools
- Communicate reserve amounts to the public

Are there budget items from the past that you would like to see continued in this year's budget?

- Continue funding to ensure adequate reserves
 - Particularly for Metro
- Continued funding for Schools

Are there things funded in the past that you believe should be under consideration for change?

- Reconsider some of the one-time investments in APS
 - 1:1 student to iPad ratio
 - Consider floaters to share
 - Recognize the useful life of this technology
- Reduce spending levels for Spanish language classes in order to fund other languages (i.e. Chinese, Arabic, and German).
- Schools CIP Budget

Are there new areas that you recommend for consideration?

- Add funding for landscaping and outdoor classes at APS elementary schools
 - Campbell may be an example to follow
- Create a liaison position for the Whole Child Movement
 - Position can create a database of existing APS and county services
 - Position can also connect parents and students to these services
- Collaborate with Department of Defense and defense community to bring cyber security training and internships to high school students
 - Arlington Tech program may already be doing similar activities
- Improve traffic enforcement around senior centers and schools for resident safety
- Schools should be use modular pre-fabricated buildings similar to Alexandria Public Schools instead of trailers for classrooms

What should County and Schools consider when weighing service and/or program reductions, revenues, and/or the impact to taxpayers?

What types of efficiencies could potentially be realized during the budget process?

- Need County and APS to present options for public consideration
- Review APS and County communication methods to ensure they are cost-efficient and environmentally friendly
 - Avoid glossy print
- School Facility Needs
 - Consider using empty office space for schools
 - Must address potential security and evacuation concerns
 - Must make sure scale of space is appropriate for school use
 - Small, low-rise office areas may be better suited for children
 - Also consider using low use library and community center space for schools
 - Use modular school buildings instead of trailers
 - Move to 4-day school week
 - Have a 4 day school week with a year round schedule
 - Alternate library schedules
 - Use vacant library space for schools
- Reevaluate technology use in schools
- Reduce the technology at bus stops
 - Bus arrival monitoring is necessary; information is available on cell phones

If needed, what types of things would Arlingtonians be willing to give up?

- Less paper communications
 - Participants had a mixed response to this suggestion
- Discontinue/remove technology at bus stops
 - Information is available on cell phones information
- Reduce expansion of Bike Share
 - The network may be reaching a saturation point
 - Less value from additional stations
 - Stations further away from metro corridor are costly to operate

Are there potential revenue changes that should be considered?

- Target traffic enforcement to promote safety and generate revenue
 - This may include creating “Safe Zones”
 - Key areas could include areas around schools and senior centers

What are the areas for future study that would help inform future budgets?

- Review performance metrics to better evaluate programs and investments
 - Quality and depth of metrics seems uneven across departments
 - Concern whether APS Peachjar technology (which replaces school backpack notes) is effective
 - Need to enhance web communication
 - But, do not eliminate paper correspondence
- Continued communications between County and APS
- Schools CIP Budget should be evaluated to be more in line with other local jurisdictions
- Need to find way for APS to get ahead of the current enrollment growth pressures
 - Smaller class cohorts are now graduating
 - Larger class cohorts are entering elementary school
 - Next area of class growth may be at the middle school level