

Arlington Public Schools

School Board FY 2012 Priorities and FY 2013 Budget Direction

The School Board establishes annual priorities to assist in keeping the Board's work focused, effective and aligned with our Strategic Plan goals. In addition, the Board provides direction to APS staff in development of the following year's budget. In preparation for the FY 2013 budget, the Board recognizes that APS priorities must be considered in the context of the needs of Arlington County as a whole and must be fiscally and environmentally sustainable. The Board's priorities for FY 2012 and budget direction for FY 2013 are as follows:

Student Achievement and Success

Consistent with the Strategic Plan goals to ensure a challenging and engaging education for all students, to eliminate achievement gaps, and to meet the needs of the whole child, the Board will focus on student achievement and success that lead to graduation and post-secondary educational opportunities. This will include:

- Review of efforts to increase enrollment in intensified, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and dual enrollment courses and reduce gaps in enrollment for these courses;
- Review of Strategic Plan indicator data, graduation rates, and drop-out rates with an emphasis on actions that can be taken to improve in these areas;
- Review of proposed indicators for the new Strategic Plan;
- Strengthening communication with families and the community so that they can be informed, engaged and active partners with APS; and
- Consideration of how instructional time (length of the school day, school calendar, use of teacher time, etc.) affects achievement and success.

Strategic Planning for Enrollment Growth

The Strategic Plan goal to provide optimal learning environments recognizes that such environments contribute to student achievement and success. In preparation for adoption of its Capital Improvement Plan in June, the Board will:

- Evaluate options to address enrollment growth estimated at five percent per year through 2016 using criteria established by the Board; and
- Consider class size, admissions policies, boundaries and other factors when reviewing options to increase APS capacity, while promoting student achievement and success.

Teacher and Staff Quality

For APS to provide a challenging and engaging education for all students, it must achieve the Strategic Plan goal to recruit, retain, and develop exemplary staff. The Board will:

- Consider professional learning and training, focused on student academic needs, development of instructional knowledge and practices, and succession planning;
- Consider efforts to recruit exemplary staff that better reflect the demographics of our student population;
- Consider adjustments to salary scales for employees to ensure competitiveness in recruitment and retention; and
- Revise the current teacher evaluation policy to be consistent with recently-enacted state law establishing new standards for teacher evaluation, and in particular that student achievement be considered in teacher evaluation.

Evaluation and Accountability

The Board is committed to continuous improvement in a cost-effective manner to assist in achieving each of our Strategic Plan goals and will:

- Review the status of evaluations involving math, English/language arts, world languages, the Office of Minority Achievement, ESOL/HILT, and services for students with special needs;
- Consider the Superintendent's proposed plan for Hoffman-Boston Elementary School; and
- Review reports on the progress of the State Efficiency Review, the evaluation of transportation, and the continuing work on process management and performance.