

Arlington Public Schools
School Board FY 2011 Priorities and FY 2012 Budget Direction

The School Board establishes annual priorities for itself 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 setting these priorities, the Board recognizes that challenging economic times continue and that the Board's decisions about resources must be fiscally and environmentally sustainable for the long-term. APS will continue to identify efficiencies in our operations. The Board's priorities for FY 2011 and budget direction for FY 2012 are as follows:

1. Student Achievement and Student Success

Consistent with the strategic plan goals of rising achievement, eliminating achievement gaps and responsive education, the Board will focus on student achievement and student success. This will include review of staff evaluations of the arts program, Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES), math, and the Minority Achievement Office. The Board also will monitor the Special Education evaluation process. Graduation rates and other measures of success will be reviewed. In addition, the Board will consider issues related to the delivery of instruction, including the length of the school day, the effectiveness of multi-age grouping of students, and class size.

2. Strategic Planning

The Board will work with staff and a citizen committee in the development of the new strategic plan for 2011-17, which will be adopted in June 2011. In addition, the Board will review planned evaluations for transportation and information services. The Board also will receive updates on the progress of the requested State Efficiency Review and staff's work with the American Productivity and Quality Council. Finally, the Board will continue to review the progressive planning model to address enrollment and capacity issues.

3. Teacher and Staff Quality

Because teacher and staff quality is fundamental to student achievement and success, the School Board will consider the various elements that contribute to recruiting and retaining a quality work force. This will include discussions about teacher and staff evaluations, professional development, and compensation.

4. Communication

Recognizing that parental involvement in and community support of education is fundamental to student achievement and success, and consistent with the strategic plan goal of effective relationships, the School Board will continue to focus on effective communication with parents and the Arlington community. Particular attention will focus on outreach efforts to all communities to ensure engagement and representation in ongoing dialogues.