

## Some Initial Budget Questions and Feedback from Community Groups, Fall 2024

- Arlington Schools Hispanic Parents Association
  - Special Education PTA
  - Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Student Concerns
  - Civic Federation
  - County Council of PTAs
  - Arlington Parents for Education
  - (Note: we reached out to NAACP Arlington Branch and Black Parents of Arlington, but have been unable to get meeting time on the calendar.)
1. Would like to minimize impact on EL students. Some concern that we didn't do everything prescribed in the DOJ settlement because of the pandemic. The DOJ determined that we did "enough" but we should not be satisfied with that.
  2. Feel some concern that Finance and consultants will look to make equal cuts at all schools. Will be a problem at Title I schools. Have to counter the perception that "Title I is enough."
  3. Black and brown communities have had less access to wealth, fewer opportunities to access early childhood education and private support (e.g., tutoring, enrichment, etc.).
  4. Some concern that APS will look at cuts that are "non-essential for instruction" and that family support/engagement positions will be reduced or eliminated (FACE, Bilingual Family Specialists, translators etc.).
  5. Some concern that there have been mixed results with FACE at different schools. What is working (that could be replicated)? What would we put in place if we had to cut this back (e.g., Aspire, Communities in Schools, etc.)?
  6. Need to think carefully about downstream effects. For example, if we cut custodians, we may not be able to keep schools open for afterschool and evening opportunities.
  7. Would like to see APS invest in the planning factors that would fuel more inclusion for students with disabilities.
  8. Advise that we do not pursue implementing pouches for "Away for the Day" because of cost and impact on students with disabilities.
  9. Suggest we look at purchase of textbooks and other curriculum resources that aren't being used, end up sitting in boxes or getting discarded.
  10. Want to understand why cost per pupil keeps rising but our enrollment is not rising in tandem.
  11. Want to be sure that whatever we do, it won't negatively impact our ability to recruit and retain staff. Concern about teacher turnover.
  12. Want to know how they can help advocate for more funding at the state level, e.g. fully funding per JLARC study.