



Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008

Request By: Public

Question: What is The Enterprise School? What is the total cost and why is it being proposed for elimination/ reduction?

Response: The Enterprise School (TES) is a non-profit socio-educational day school program that partners with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (JDRC). The County's contract with TES provides funding to help provide alternative education services for up to 40 youth who are referred by probation and school staff. Youth may be suspended or expelled but permitted to attend TES by Fairfax County Public Schools. Typically, the youth have social, substance abuse, and mental health issues as well as having been suspended or expelled from public school. Last year, 26 County students attended TES, seven of which were court-involved.

TES has a \$329,491 contract with the Court/County, which helps support operating expenses and program staff. Additional revenues (totaling an estimated \$246,819 in FY 2009) are generated through student fees, tuition paid by parents, and private donations, resulting in a total FY 2009 budget of \$576,310. In addition, FCPS provides five full time teachers in support of the program, which are not covered by the funds noted above as their salaries are paid by FCPS. The five school teachers are responsible for providing all instruction and testing for students as would be done within their base school. Because of the smaller class size, the youth have more individualized instruction available to them and the ability to provide specialized tutoring when required. Teachers are specifically assigned based upon their experience and commitment working with youth with behavior problems, and work hand in hand with the counseling and administrative staff.

As part of the FY 2010 Lines of Business (LOB) review, JDRC proposed The Enterprise School contract for elimination as it is one of the few programs operated by the Court Services Unit that is not a state mandated service. In order to achieve the 15 percent reduction target, JDRC had limited options and thus proposed the contract for elimination.