

Response to Questions on the FY 2013 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Herrity

Question: Please provide benchmark data comparing Fairfax County's construction costs against those being experienced by neighboring jurisdictions. Could design costs be reduced significantly by using previous design models for similar types of facilities such as schools?

Response: *(Note: A response to this question is being prepared by both the County and FCPS. This is the FCPS response. The County response is included as question #40 on pages 68-70 of this Q&A package.)*

The following response was prepared by Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS):

FCPS utilizes existing design models when appropriate and when possible. The Department of Facilities and Transportation Services has obtained construction cost data from four surrounding school systems. We have been aware that our construction costs are substantially lower than these systems, but this is the first time they agreed to provide their actual costs. They did so, however, with a caveat. They have requested that we not name the school systems explicitly. Therefore, we are showing these systems as Virginia Public School Systems A, B, and C, and Maryland Public School System D.

Because none of these surrounding school systems conduct phased-occupied renovation projects as we do in FCPS, it is not possible to compare renovation costs. Thus, what we are providing is a comparison of new construction costs only.

The following chart displays the cost data that we received from the other local jurisdictions for the construction of a new elementary school.

