

Response to Questions on the FY 2017 Budget

Request By: Supervisor McKay

Question: Given the slowdown in enrollment growth, what are the assumptions for FY 2018 and beyond for enrollment growth/demographic changes?

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

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) five-year student enrollment projections show an overall contracted growth in the future forecast. This is a change from the higher growth levels experienced in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) in recent years. The projection includes indicators that elementary aged student enrollment will decrease in the future, while middle school and high school will experience moderated growth. This is due to the fact that larger cohorts of elementary students will progress in the system during the upcoming five-year period.

Since SY 2009-10, student enrollment in FCPS has grown on average by approximately 2,400 students each year for a total enrollment growth of more than 13,700 students. In FY 2016, FCPS experienced contracted growth due to a decrease in the birth to kindergarten yield ratio, which compares the number of kindergarten students enrolled to the number of births in Fairfax County five years ago. It was also caused by a rapidly declining in-migration of new students.

FCPS Five-Year Projections					
School Type	Projections				
	SY 2016-17	SY 2017-18	SY 2018-19	SY 2019-20	SY 2020-21
Elementary ¹	98,631	98,189	97,725	96,925	96,297
Middle ¹	28,766	29,284	29,720	30,038	30,109
High ¹	56,355	56,635	56,828	57,353	58,079
ES, MS, HS Sub-Total	183,752	184,108	184,273	184,316	184,484
Special Education Centers ²	732	759	779	801	822
Preschool Resource	903	895	882	869	839
Alternative Programs ³	1,819	1,914	1,950	1,976	1,998
Category A ⁴	5	5	5	5	5
CIP Planning Total	187,211	187,681	187,889	187,967	188,148
Adult HS, Multi-Agency, Private School Special Education	880	880	880	880	880
Total	188,091	188,561	188,769	188,847	189,028

1 - Enrollment numbers include: general education, special education, AAP, FECEP/Head Start, and preschool (wherever applicable)
 2 - Enrollment numbers include: Burke School, Cedar Lane School, Kilmer Center, Key Center, Pulley Center, Quander Road School, and Davis Center
 3 - Enrollment numbers include alternative high schools, alternative learning centers, alternative court programs, AIM programs, and ESOL transitional high schools
 4 - LD (learning disability) and ED (emotional disability) students at alternative learning centers

All enrollment and projection numbers based on September 30th enrollment

Source: FY 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Program as presented on January 11, 2016 All-Day WS Nos. 55-58