

Response to Questions on the FY 2017 Budget

Request By: Supervisor McKay

Question: Please explain how transportation is provided for students who voluntarily pupil place out of their boundary school for academics, enrichment, language immersion, advanced academics, or other voluntary reasons. Please also provide a chart that shows how many students do this.

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

School Board-approved Regulation 8617 establishes student eligibility rules for riding school buses and guidelines for developing bus routes and schedules. FCPS provides transportation for students as indicated in the chart below. Otherwise, transportation is not provided for language immersion, enrichment courses such as Advance Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB), and other programs.

Programs	Number of Students (As of March 2016)
Academies	2,665
Advanced Academics	6,078
Elementary School Magnet	392
Thomas Jefferson	1,516
JROTC	Included within shuttle transportation runs, if any
Project Opportunity	55
Boundary Adjustment-Temporary	230
Exceptions to Ride	1,845

Academies

First session transportation is provided only in limited situations based on available resources and a minimum of five transported students. Second and third session transportation is provided by shuttle service to and from base schools with a minimum of five transported students.

Advanced Academics

Neighborhood transportation is provided to students who live within the program's boundary. Transportation for students outside the program boundary is not provided.

Elementary School Magnet

Students are picked up at several geographically dispersed elementary school sites around the county as designated annually by Transportation Services.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST)

Students ride regular buses or walk to their base schools and then are shuttled to TJHSST. Students are transported home to neighborhood stops.

Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC)

Neighborhood transportation is not provided. Limited shuttles to off-campus locations from JROTC sites are for short-term or one-time situations and will be provided based on available resources. JROTC numbers are included in the shuttle counts, such as Academies. No separate busing is provided.

Project Opportunity

Transportation is provided to Bryant and Mountain View. Based on available resources, transportation will be by shuttle to and from base schools or from neighborhood stops.

Boundary Adjustment

Per Regulation 2230, transportation is provided only for School Board-approved boundary phase-ins. No transportation is provided for reasons other than boundary adjustments.

Exceptions to Ride

When transportation is not provided, students may ride existing school buses if they can safely access an existing bus stop and if space is available. An exception-to-ride form (TR-52) must be completed by the parent or guardian and approved annually by Transportation Services.