

## **Response to Questions on the FY 2005 Advertised Budget Plan**

**Request By:** Supervisor Gross

**Question:** Explain the difference between the Senate and House proposals regarding the Cost of Competing adjustment.

**Response:** The Cost of Competing adjustment for Northern Virginia school divisions has been included in the Standards of Quality since 1988. The Cost of Competing recognizes the higher cost of school personnel in Northern Virginia just as the state also has Cost of Competing differentials for other state employees in Northern Virginia such as state police positions. Governor Warner's proposed 2004 -2006 Biennium Budget included an additional \$7.1 million over the biennium for the Cost of Competing adjustment contingent on tax reform. Of the total \$7.1 million for Northern Virginia, Fairfax County Public Schools would receive an additional \$2.6 million over the biennium. The Senate budget proposal funds the Governor's request; however, the House budget proposal eliminates the additional \$7.1 million.