

## Response to Questions on the FY 2008 Advertised Budget Plan

**Request By:** Supervisor Kauffman

**Question:** How does the cost estimate to change the school day for junior/senior high school (between \$5 and \$9 million) compare to the cost of all the school and County funded programs to keep kids off the street during the afternoon hours (including the anti-gang initiatives)?

**Response:** The After-School Initiatives program is a collaborative effort between the School Board and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. This program provides structured activities for middle school students after the regular school day, providing opportunities for student growth and development that include academic support and enrichment, social skills and youth development, physical, health, and recreational activities, and family and community involvement. The FY 2007 budget is \$4.5 million which includes \$3.5 million received from the County to support this program. Please note, anti-gang initiatives are incorporated into after-school programs, as well as, the Department of Community and Recreation Services' Teen Centers and Computer Clubhouses. See the attached chart reflecting the costs of these programs. It should be noted that there is not a one for one correlation between these dollars and a change in the school day.

If middle school start times were moved to later in the morning, it might reduce the hours of the after school program and might reduce the costs of this program. The extent of this is not known. While there is general agreement that high school start times should be later, some revised bell schedule scenarios actually have middle schools starting earlier than is now the case.