

Response to Questions on the FY 2005 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Supervisor Hudgins

Question: Detail the array of FCPS activities and funding support for youth after-school programs.

Response: The following response was provided by Fairfax County Public Schools.

FCPS offers several academic programs after-school at the elementary and middle schools.

For students who did not pass SOL tests or who are identified to be at-risk of not passing the SOL tests, FCPS offers a spring after-school program at Project Excel schools (and those schools that have been proposed for the Project Excel program). The After-School Remediation Program is designed to provide direct instruction during the after-school hours in reading comprehension, practice time for skills in reading informational text in science and social studies, and mathematics problem solving. There is no cost to the student. Transportation is provided. The FY 2005 budget includes \$620,779 for this program.

At the middle school level, the Thomas Jefferson (TJ) Admissions Test Preparation class is offered in the fall to students in middle schools underrepresented at TJ. The instruction covers TJ admissions test-related mathematics and verbal reasoning, essay writing and study strategies. There is no cost to the student. Transportation is provided. The FY 2005 budget includes \$100,000 for this program.

Additionally, the Office of Adult and Community Education offers enrichment courses, before or after school, at various elementary schools. No operating funds are used for these programs; tuition costs are paid by the users. The fees collected cover the costs; therefore, there is no cost to FCPS. The classes offered cover a wide-range of topics. For example, multiple foreign languages are taught with largest enrollments in French, Spanish and German. Courses in computer technology cover material on digital imaging, web design and other multi-media projects. The science courses cover topics in chemistry, physics, geology and biology. A family literacy program involving students and parents with limited English proficiency is conducted at Title I schools and other elementary schools demonstrating need. Funding for these programs is unstable, coming from a variety of grants. No operating funds are associated with these programs.

Parent-teacher organizations (PTAs) offer other programs such as Hands-on-Science as well as clubs and classes after school. Courses offered can be enrichment or remedial. The individual PTA at each school determines the course fee.

At the middle school level extra-curricular clubs are conducted after school such as art club, band, string orchestra, chorus, drama plays, chess club, math team, newspaper, and yearbook, etc. Some middle school activities provide an academic teacher supplement.

At the high school level a wide variety of extra-curricular clubs and activities are conducted after school including athletics, music programs, community service activities, yearbook, etc. Some high school academic and athletic activities provide a teacher supplement. Some after-school activities are staffed by teachers who volunteer their time.