

Response to Questions on the FY 2005 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Supervisor McConnell

Question: What would it cost to fully fund 'No Child Left Behind'? What have other states done with regard to this mandate? What would be the result if a local board (School Board or Board of Supervisors) refused to implement this mandate?

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

Virginia and FCPS have not calculated the total cost of implementing No Child Left Behind (NCLB). It is difficult to make a realistic estimate of costs, especially prior to 2005-2006. At that time, school systems will be required to implement several of the more expensive NCLB requirements including additional testing for grades 4, 6, and 7, and be in full compliance with teacher quality requirements. In addition, schools will likely be in various stages of implementing NCLB sanctions, many of which redirect Title I funds out of the classroom. In order to fully meet NCLB requirements, it is likely that the state and local jurisdictions will be required to implement additional measures such as extending the school day, extending the school year, reducing class size, or providing new instructional programs in addition to remediation and public school choice.

A cost study (HJ87) was introduced but ultimately carried over during this year's General Assembly session. The legislatures in Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Indiana, North Dakota, New Hampshire, and Ohio have commissioned studies to estimate the costs of complying with NCLB. Ohio has estimated that the statewide cost for NCLB is approximately \$1.5 billion and expects to receive \$44 million reimbursement in federal funds.

NCLB is actually an amendment to the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). State and local educational agencies (LEAs) may opt out, but consequences will include forfeiture of federal funds including Impact Aid and ESEA formula funds (Title I – V) and diminished ability to qualify for state and federal competitive grants. This would result in the loss of approximately \$25 million for FCPS in FY 2005.

If the LEA opts out of NCLB, but the state does not, the school division would still be required to implement the vast majority of NCLB requirements including additional student testing, ensuring adequate yearly progress for all schools, and fulfilling the law's requirements for highly qualified teachers.

Attached is a copy of a letter to the Utah State Office of Education from the federal Department of Education that details more of the consequences of non-compliance.

Attachment