

## Response to Questions on the FY 2006 Advertised Budget Plan

**Request By:** Supervisor Hyland

**Question:** How many additional nurses would be necessary to reach a nurse/student ratio of 1:2,000? What would be the cost impact to fund these nurses?

**Response:** Currently, 53 Public Health Nurses (PHN) serve the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). PHNs are responsible for developing and implementing health plans for students with identified health conditions, as well as identifying and ensuring an appropriate response to other student health issues. Based on a student population of 166,275 students, there is one PHN for every 3,137 students, on average. The addition of 4/4.0 SYE PHN included in the FY 2006 Advertised Budget Plan will reduce the ratio to one PHN for every 2,930 students, on average.

In 1993, the Board of Supervisors established a School Health Task Force to thoroughly evaluate the School Health Program. At that time, the Task Force recommended a ratio of one PHN for every 2,000 students. The Health Department felt this was an acceptable ratio, given that there was also a Clinic Room Aide in every school. Based on a projected 167,000 FCPS students in FY 2006, an additional 31/31.0 SYE Public Health Nurses for a total of 84 PHN, would be required to reach the 1:2,000 nurse/student ratio. Achieving this ratio in FY 2006 would require an additional \$2,350,761. The cost for one PHN is approximately \$76,000, which includes salary, fringe benefits, annual operating supplies, and start-up equipment costs.