

Response to Questions on the FY 2009 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Supervisor McKay

Question: The School's Transportation Task Force (TTF) has made a number of recommendations to improve efficiency and gain cost savings. What are these and have they been incorporated into the superintendent's budget?

Response: Fairfax County Public Schools have provided the following information:

Following are the TTF recommendations. None of these recommendations have been incorporated into the budget pending further consideration by the School Board.

- Save the "Exception to Ride" program.
- "Civil twilight" should be respected, but not as an absolute barrier. Elementary school (ES) bus runs may start before civil twilight, but not more than ten days each academic year, and not by more than ten minutes even then.
- ES students should not ride the bus to their within-boundary base school for more than 45 minutes.
- Middle school (MS) and high school (HS) students should have the same bus ride time limitations.
- MS and HS students should not ride the bus to their within-boundary base school for more than 60 minutes.
- ES students should arrive no later than five minutes before school and no earlier than 25 minutes before school – a 5-25 minutes arrival/drop-off window – and are to be permitted to exit the bus and enter the school immediately upon arrival.
- HS and MS student arrival/drop-off window is to be 10-25 minutes before school, with immediate entry.
- "Grandfathering" for school boundary changes may be permitted, but for not more than a single year following the changes.
- "Grandfathering" should not be used for non-boundary program changes.
- Current home-to-school walking distances should not be changed.
- Transportation should optimize bus stop placements by making better use of the permissible walking distance, up to, but not exceeding one-half (1/2) mile for ES students, with the goal being to reduce the number of bus stops and improving transport efficiency and run length.
- Transportation should optimize bus stop placements by making better use of the permissible walking distance, up to, but not exceeding three-quarters (3/4) mile for MS and HS students, with a goal of reducing the number of bus stops and improving transport efficiency and run length.
- ES students should not ride with MS or HS students, except for current rare and unusual circumstances related to centralized pickups, such as TJHSST.
- MS and HS students may ride the same bus at any time.
- Transportation should not be provided to a GT Center when the base school has a GT Center (rejected).
- The use of centralized pickup locations should be expanded for all students attending non-mandatory out-of-boundary programs (rejected).