

Response to Questions on the FY 2012 Budget

Request By: Supervisor McKay

Question: What is the size of the “School Security” entity? How many employees and what is the budget amount? What duties does this agency cover? Also, please describe why SUVs and trucks are needed and if school security steps in if a crossing guard or SRO is absent.

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

The Office of Safety and Security (OSS) contains three sections, the Safety and Environmental Health section, the Security section, and the Safety and Security Management element. Regarding the Security section, this entity is composed of thirty-seven positions for the FY 2011 budget. These include: one Security Coordinator, one Security Specialist, two School Security Planning Officers, one Security Systems Technical Specialist, one Security Operations Supervisor, six Security Supervisors, twenty-two Security Officers, and three Security Systems Monitors. The FY 2011 budget for the Security section is \$3.2 million, of which \$3.1 million is allocated to salaries and benefits. Information about the other two sections is available in the [FCPS Program Budget](#).

The Security section provides divisionwide services to school and nonschool facilities and staff. Duties assigned to this section include responding to calls for security assistance, conducting facility and grounds safety, security, and loss prevention patrols and inspections 24 hours a day; providing 24/7 monitoring of security and fire alarm systems; providing uniformed security staff assistance at school events; operating the FCPS security operations center; reviewing and assisting schools and centers with security and crisis management planning and training needs; providing necessary security-related facility modifications; providing security technology design, implementation, and support; providing mandatory security training to all FCPS school-based and nonschool-based security staff; writing and distributing information on security and crisis issues; and providing in-service and new employee training workshops, and state mandated certification training programs. Program goals are to provide a safe and secure environment for students, employees, and visitors; increase safety and security awareness at all FCPS facilities; and standardize and maximize effective response to and management of critical incidents in schools and centers.

Mandates - Federal law and the Code of Virginia require schools to provide safe learning environments and to have emergency management plans. Specific mandates are below:

- ♦ Code of Virginia § 22.1-279.8(D) - Mandates that all schools develop crisis and emergency management plans.
- ♦ Virginia Administrative Code 6VAC20-240 - Mandates the certification/recertification of all school security specialists/assistants.
- ♦ National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72 - NFPA 72 mandates Central Monitoring Station (CMS) round-the-clock monitoring of security and fire alarm systems (SAFAS).

- ◆ Virginia Administrative Code 8VAC20-131-260 - Mandates procedures and responsibilities for fires, fire alarms, fire drills, and the fire safety manual.
- ◆ Code of Virginia § 22.1-279.9 - Mandates programs to prevent violence and crime on school property and at school-sponsored events.

The OSS utilizes fourteen Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV), one pickup truck, and two sedans for its operational duties. The use of 4-wheel drive vehicles is considered to be critical, as they provide for the patrolling of, and responding to, calls for service to all FCPS facilities regardless of the weather and road conditions. During heavy snow storms, OSS routinely loans 4-wheel drive vehicles to the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD). The OSS vehicles also have to be sized appropriately to accommodate various equipment that is carried in each vehicle. These include spray paint to cover vandalism, tools for minor repairs, building materials to temporarily secure doors and windows, signs, traffic cones, first aid equipment, etc.

Regarding the issue of crossing guards and SRO's who direct traffic, Virginia law specifically designates only law-enforcement officers and uniformed school crossing guards with the authority to engage in such activities. School security officers lack the statutory authority to perform this function. (VA Code 46.2-834).