

Response to Questions on the FY 2015 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Cook

Question: Please outline the revenue that could be generated if an annual \$250 per student charge for the Middle School After-School (MSAS) Program was instituted, exempting children eligible for free and reduced lunch.

Response: The 2012-13 school year MSAS registration totaled approximately 25,000 students. Of that number the average student attendance for the 2012-13 school year was 21,126 students per week (duplicated number), with 13,863 students considered regular attendees. The extent to which a new fee will reduce participation is hard to predict, but it is assumed the regular attendees would be the most likely students to stay in the program as registered participants in the event a fee is implemented. Assuming the current broader school population free and reduced lunch rate of 27 percent, 10,120 students would pay the fee, for a total revenue generation of \$2.53 million.

It should be noted that the MSAS program was initiated as a core component of the Board of Supervisors efforts to reduce gang presence in our communities. The MSAS program is a key element in the school division's and county's initiatives to not only combat gangs but to improve student behavior, improve academic performance, and develop healthy and successful youth. As such, significant effort was put into encouraging participation among as many middle school youth as possible. The decision not to implement a fee from the beginning of the program was a part of those efforts.

While the MSAS program receives the majority of its funding from the County's general fund, the program is officially a Fairfax County Public Schools program and as such any adoption of a program fee requires the approval of the Fairfax County School Board.