

Response to Questions on the FY 2018 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Foust

Question: How does Fairfax County compare in terms of education spending per capita to other jurisdictions?

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

A divisionwide cost per pupil is computed annually using a methodology agreed on by the Washington Area Boards of Education (WABE). The WABE calculation includes general education, special education, and federal entitlement grants, as well as all support expenditures in the operating fund, but it excludes operating fund transfers to the Family and Early Childhood Education Program (FECEP), Adult and Community Education (ACE), and debt service. These WABE-adjusted expenditures are divided by the total approved student enrollment to determine the approved WABE cost per pupil.

The FY 2017 approved divisionwide average cost-per-pupil ratios, calculated according to WABE guidelines, are shown in the chart below. In FY 2017, FCPS maintained its middle ranking when compared to other school districts in the metropolitan area.

COST PER PUPIL	
School Division	FY 2017 Approved
Arlington County	\$18,957
Falls Church City	\$18,418
Alexandria City	\$17,008
Montgomery County	\$15,975
Fairfax County	\$14,432
Prince George's County	\$13,869
Loudoun County	\$13,121
Manassas City	\$13,112
Manassas Park City	\$11,158
Prince William County	\$10,981