

Fund S71100: Public School OPEB Trust Fund

Focus Fund S71100, Public School Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund, was established by the School Board in FY 2008 as a mechanism to accumulate and invest assets to fund the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) system's other post-employment benefits.

In June 2015, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 75, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions" as part of its comprehensive review of accounting and financial reporting for postemployment benefits. Statement No. 75 supersedes Statement No. 45, Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions, which governments previously applied to account for OPEB. Statement No. 75 establishes standards for recognizing and measuring liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expense/expenditures. For a defined benefit OPEB, this statement identifies the methods and assumptions that are required to be used to project benefit payments, discount projected benefit payments to their actuarial present value, and attribute that present value to current period of employee service. This is a departure from Statement No. 45 under which FCPS focused on the employers showing the status of funding for its annual required contribution.

As a result of the implementation of Statement No. 75 starting in FY 2018, FCPS has restated its OPEB liability in its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and is now recording OPEB expenses in the OPEB Trust Fund. The new standards base annual OPEB expense on the amount by which the reported OPEB liability increased or decreased during the year. The OPEB liability changes from year to year as a result of factors that cause either the total OPEB liability or the value of plan assets to increase or decrease. The amount by which those factors cause the OPEB liability to increase or decrease generally is reported as OPEB expense in the year in which changes occur.

Program participants may continue medical coverage by paying the appropriate subsidized premiums (explicit subsidy) based on years of service and the retirement plan under which the retiree is covered. In addition, FCPS subsidizes the premium rates paid by the retirees by allowing them to participate in the medical plans at the reduced or blended group premium rates for both active and retired employees (implicit subsidy). These rates provide an implicit subsidy for retirees because, on an actuarial basis, their current and future claims are expected to result in higher costs to the program on average than those of active employees.

As recommended best practice is to contribute the full amount of their actuarially determined contribution (ADC) each year, the ADC represents the portion of the present value of projected benefits that is attributable to the current period. For FY 2020, FCPS contributed 120.9 percent to its ADC. The ADC can be affected by benefit increases for members and beneficiaries including cost of living adjustments (COLAs), benefit formula enhancements, or post-retirement benefit increases. In addition, changes to the OPEB trust investment assets may have an impact on OPEB expenses. FCPS' projected ADC contributions for FY 2022 are \$16.8 million.

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FUND STATEMENT

Category	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Adopted Budget Plan	FY 2021 Revised Budget Plan ¹	FY 2022 Superintendent's Proposed	FY 2022 Adopted Budget Plan ²
Beginning Balance	\$146,508,965	\$156,550,477	\$155,969,068	\$165,868,568	\$165,868,568
Revenue:					
Employer Contributions	\$28,875,000	\$24,894,000	\$24,894,000	\$21,818,000	\$21,818,000
Net Investment Income	4,561,466	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Total Revenue	\$33,436,466	\$29,894,000	\$29,894,000	\$26,818,000	\$26,818,000
Total Available	\$179,945,431	\$186,444,477	\$185,863,068	\$192,686,568	\$192,686,568
Total Expenditures	\$23,976,363	\$19,994,500	\$19,994,500	\$16,923,500	\$16,923,500
Total Disbursements	\$23,976,363	\$19,994,500	\$19,994,500	\$16,923,500	\$16,923,500
Reserved Ending Balance	\$155,969,068	\$166,449,977	\$165,868,568	\$175,763,068	\$175,763,068

¹The FY 2021 Revised Budget Plan reflects adjustments adopted by the Fairfax County School Board on March 18, 2021 during the FY 2021 Third Quarter Review.

²Fairfax County School Board action on the FY 2022 budget was taken on May 20, 2021 and will be included for approval by the Board of Supervisors as part of the FY 2021 Carryover Review.