



APS FY2020 Budget Information

The School Board is now considering the Superintendent's proposed budget for next school year, which was presented to the Board on February 28. The budget includes several "tiers" of cuts: Tier 1, which are built into the base budget and will be implemented barring changes in base funding or finding other things to cut; Tier 2, which are potential cuts because even with Tier 1 there is an expected deficit of \$8.9 million; and Tier 3, which are additional cuts being considered if not enough cuts from Tier 2 are implemented.

Of particular concern to elementary school parents, Tier 1 budget cuts include:

- Increasing class size limit from 28 to 29 for grades 4 and 5

Tier 2 proposed cuts include:

- Eliminating elementary school library assistants
- Eliminating funding for discretionary field trips
- Eliminating activities at the Outdoor Lab

Tier 3 proposed cuts include:

- Eliminating funding for non-discretionary field trips
- Reduce Resource Teachers for the Gifted at elementary schools by 0.5 FTE
- Eliminate transportation for general education students attending summer school

You can see the full list of Tier 1, 2, and 3 cuts on pages 57-60 of the proposed budget document: <https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/FY-2020-Superintendents-Proposed-Budget.pdf>

Also, keep in mind this budget is based on the assumption that a proposed one-cent tax increase from the County will be implemented. The County Board has not voted on this yet. The County has the ability to implement a tax increase as high as 2.75 cents, two cents of which would go to the schools.

There are several ways that we can provide feedback about the proposed budget before the School Board votes on it. These include:

1. Attending the County Public Tax Rate Hearing this Thursday, April 4, at 7 pm in the County Board Room.

2. Emailing the School Board schoolboard@apsva.us AND the County Board countyboard@arlingtonva.us. The budget for APS is highly dependent on what the County chooses to allocate to APS.
3. Attending a School Board meeting or work session. These include:
 - April 9 – School Board Budget Work Session #6
 - April 11 – School Board’s Proposed FY 2020 Budget (Action)
 - April 12 – School Board’s Presentation to the County Board, County Board Room, 4:00 p.m. (no speakers but we can attend)
 - April 15 - County Board meeting (no speakers but we can attend)
 - April 18 - County Board final markup (no speakers but we can attend)
 - April 23 - County Board final budget adoption
 - May 2 – Public Hearing on School Board’s Proposed Budget
 - May 9 – School Board Adopts FY 2020 Budget
4. Attend School Board or County Board Office Hours: <https://countyboard.arlingtonva.us/open-door-mondays/> , <https://www.apsva.us/contact-the-school-board/open-office-hours/>

We have **just over a month to provide our feedback** on the budget and its proposed cuts—so it is imperative that we pay close attention and act soon!