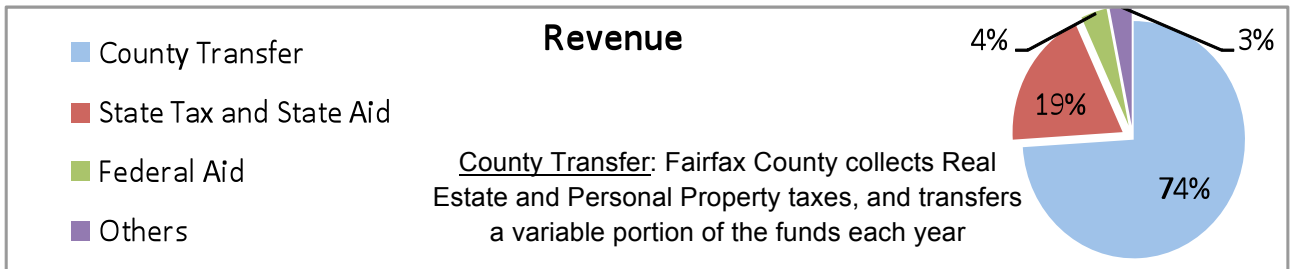




# Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Budget

Budget for the current school year: \$2.2 billion

## Where do the schools get their funds?

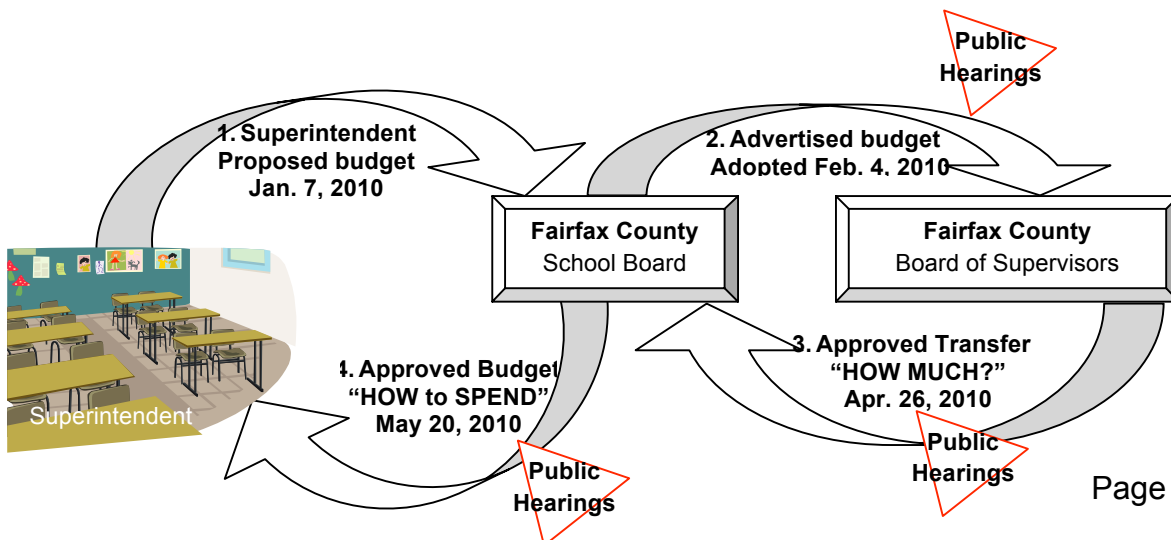


## How is the money used?



## Who decides where the money goes? How does the budget process work?

While the Superintendent will release his budget recommendations in January, development of the budget by Fairfax County staff is happening now.





## Why is there a budget shortfall for the school year 2010-2011?

- As county housing values have dropped, revenue generated by real estate taxes has decreased as well. Simply put, the county has less money to fund its various programs, including the public schools.
- The public school student population continues to grow as well. Fairfax County expects to educate an additional 5,000 students next school year.
- Even though the needs of our schools are increasing, the state's contribution to the school budget will decrease next year.

## What does it mean for the next school year?

Currently, the county schools face a projected \$176 million shortfall in funding for next year's programs and operations. That's even if employee salaries and per-pupil spending remain the same as this year and if Fairfax County Board of Supervisors increases the real estate tax rate to ensure they receive the same amount of funding (same transfer) as the current fiscal year. If the Board of Supervisors doesn't increase the tax rate, FCPS will face an even bigger budget deficit.

## What does it mean for our children at Sleepy Hollow ES?



- Class size will increase for the third year in a row.
- Instructional Assistants will be reduced: SHES will lose some of its 15 assistants. These staff members allow amongst other things, the parallel block program to provide our children small group instruction in core subjects.
- Other proposed budget cuts include eliminating the elementary band and strings, foreign language instruction, technology programs...
- Full day kindergarten is also in jeopardy and could be converted into a half-day program.

## If you are concerned, what can you do?

- Contact the PTA for more information ( email President, Traci Cooke, [president@shespta.org](mailto:president@shespta.org)) or visit <http://www.shespta.org/>
- Join the PTA's budget committee (contact Caroline Morel, [cmcmorel@hotmail.com](mailto:cmcmorel@hotmail.com))
- Write to our School Board member, Kaye Kory, to share your concerns and ideas and mention your support for specific school programs.

Kaye Kory  
Mason District School Board Member  
8115 Gatehouse Road, Suite 5400  
Falls Church, VA 22042

Phone: 571-423-1083  
[kaye.kory@fcps.edu](mailto:kaye.kory@fcps.edu)

- You also can e-mail the entire School Board at [schoolboardmembers@fcps.edu](mailto:schoolboardmembers@fcps.edu).



- Write to our Board of Supervisors (BOS) member, Penny Gross, to voice your opinion about Fairfax County Public Schools. Keep in mind, the Board of Supervisors does not decide *how* the schools *spend* their money. But they do decide how *much* the *entire* school system *receives*. For instance, letters/emails to Supervisor Gross could focus on increasing the county's transfer to the public schools to save the schools' integral programs, rather than on the funding needed for a specific school program.

Penelope A. Gross

Mason District Supervisor

Mason District Governmental Center

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[mason@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mason@fairfaxcounty.gov)

- Attend a public hearing and share your comments with the School Board and Board of Supervisors. The School Board will take public comments on the proposed school budget on January 25 and 26. The Board of Supervisors, meanwhile, will hear public comments on the entire county budget April 6-8. The School Board will hold a second round of public hearings on May 11 and 12.