

FY 2027 Budget Comments Received



New comments on top.

Date Received	Comment
Friday, February 20, 2026	<p>Hello - I am the parent of a second grader at Samuel Tucker Elementary School.</p> <p>I am concerned that our schools do not have enough funding to meet the needs of our students. I understand that City Council determines the funding level for Alexandria's schools, and your decisions directly impact the quality of education our children receive.</p> <p>We know that neighboring jurisdictions can offer higher teacher salaries, and strong teachers have choices about where they work. Retaining great educators should be a priority. I am also concerned about large class sizes and how they affect student learning and teacher support.</p> <p>Our students deserve the resources, attention, and opportunities needed to succeed. Can we count on you to prioritize education and increase funding for our schools?</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
Friday, February 20, 2026	<p>In order to retain and recruit talent in ACPS, salaries need to be competitive. Please include funding to support ACPS staff's collective bargaining in your annual budget.</p>
Thursday, February 19, 2026	<p>I am Vice President of the Patrick Henry PTA.</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for an increase in the funding allocated for ACPS schools, specifically for staffing. We remain uncompetitive with surrounding school districts (Arlington and Fairfax) and the proposed budget indicates we will continue to be so, resulting in attrition and teacher turnover. Retaining talented teachers is particularly important for us, given that many of our teachers are asked to manage very large class sizes. Providing this sort of stability should be an absolute priority for us, given the many challenges faced by ACPS students and families in light of the many changes due to redistricting.</p>
Thursday, February 19, 2026	<p>Please fully fund ACPS. It is critical that we keep and attract the best teachers. Fully funding ACPS is a step in the right direction to keep Alexandria competitive for top talent in the region. Strong schools lead to strong communities. Fund ACPS.</p>
Thursday, February 19, 2026	<p>I would like to see two things: 1. A significant improvement in the ratio of teachers to administrative staff, and 2. A significant reduction in the amount of laptops and tablets that are purchased and used for instruction at the elementary level.</p>
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	<p>I would like to see the ACPS school budget prioritized in the FY2027 city budget, to be presented next week. I acknowledge that this is (yet again) a tough budget year. However, I am disappointed that the conversation around the budget continues to be "what can we cut" rather than "how can we increase revenue." Years without tax increases and without revenue investments have contributed to the schools being underfunded and repeatedly having to beg for adequate funding to meet the ever-increasing population and need in the city. It is clear based on recent research and data that at the state level, the recommendations and funding levels do not meet the need of any school across the commonwealth. However, until strong advocacy and a motivated General Assembly can change how Virginia schools are funded generally, it is the responsibility of this city to fund our school system. Claiming that we are adequately funding ACPS when we are not only adds to the problem. When you compare the percentages of funding that surrounding jurisdictions provide their public schools, all of them are higher than Alexandria, despite the fact that we educate a population with a higher percentage of need. We need more resources for our kids, not less.</p> <p>For a sadly large number of children in Alexandria, their schools are one of the safest places in their lives, and the primary source of positive adult interactions outside of the home. Many families don't have the extra funds to participate in travel sports (or any sports outside what is offered at ACPS), or extra theater classes.</p> <p>Many of our teachers are truly magicians to be able to give what they give to their students. You see that when you walk into a kindergarten class at the start of the year and see students that can't write their full name or accurately identify all the letters of the alphabet. Return in May, and you will find them sounding out words. Come to the schools. See special education teachers give up their lunch break to work 1:1 with their students to make sure they "get their wiggles out" before joining their class for encore classes. Walk into a middle school science classroom and find students bringing to life a flying robot for the science fair during their lunch break, constructively working with their teacher (even middle school students who won't talk to their parents).</p> <p>These magicians deserve to be paid fairly for the extraordinary work they do each every day so that our children graduate ready to be contributing citizens in our city. Teachers and administrators deserve to be paid at a level that acknowledges their years of service, their investments in their educations, and the truly impressive outcomes that they manage to produce on a shoestring budget. Retaining excellent, experienced teachers is key and unfortunately in Alexandria the pay gaps between us and the neighboring jurisdictions gets higher each year.</p> <p>We all watched as every collective bargaining unit came to the city and had their requests fulfilled this year, DESPITE the tough budget year. Funding the ACPS budget at a 1.5% recommendation will not allow that to happen for our teachers-not when nearly 80% of the budget is salaries. We can do better in Alexandria. And we have to. The kids are counting on us, and on you.</p> <p>Catie Brownback</p>
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	<p>I request that the budget includes a dedicated line item for non-technology curriculum materials — such as workbooks, printed homework packets, pencils, pens, paper, ink for printouts, and other hands-on learning tools for elementary and middle school students.</p> <p>Children are not yet mentally mature enough to consistently keep themselves on task or safe when using technology without constant supervision. Extensive screen use can make sustained attention, focus, and deep thinking more difficult for young learners, because digital media often delivers rapid, highly stimulating content that competes with slower, more thoughtful tasks (research shows screen exposure is linked with shorter attention spans and difficulty concentrating).</p> <p>Balancing technology with traditional, non-screen learning materials supports stronger cognitive development, real-world problem-solving, and foundational skills like handwriting, reading comprehension, and memory.</p> <p>I also ask that parents be given the option to opt their children out of learning through iPads, Chromebooks, or computers, so that families who prefer traditional, non-screen instruction for developmental or educational reasons can choose that path.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Ruth Leiva</p>

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	<p>I support the FY 2027 budget's focus on recruitment and retention of high-quality educators. Competitive teacher compensation is essential to attract and retain top talent and sustain instructional excellence across ACPS. The inclusion of salary reserves and recruitment/retention resources is a positive step; however, continued investment is necessary to ensure ACPS remains competitive with neighboring districts and supports long-term teacher stability.</p> <p>I also strongly encourage ACPS and City Council to expand access to high-quality, nutritious meals. While universal lunch programs are helpful, meal quality matters. Breakfasts should minimize added sugars (especially for elementary school children) and offer balanced options, and lunches should emphasize fresh, nutritious, whole-food ingredients. With more than 40% of students qualifying for free or reduced meals, food security and meal quality directly impact academic performance and overall well-being.</p> <p>Arts education and after-school programming must remain strong priorities. These programs are foundational to a well-rounded education and are not optional enrichment. Music, visual arts, theater, academic clubs, and extended-day programs support engagement, equity, and student development across all grade levels. Dedicated funding ensures these programs are protected and accessible to all students.</p> <p>Finally, as ACPS navigates school boundary changes and redistricting, I urge the inclusion of explicit resources to support impacted families. While staffing adjustments are included in the proposed budget, families would benefit from dedicated transition support such as transportation assistance, counseling resources, multilingual communication, and community-building opportunities at receiving schools. Proactive support will help maintain stability, trust, and student well-being during transitions.</p>
Thursday, February 12, 2026	<p>I'm a 30+ year resident of the City and 17 year ACPS veteran teacher. Our salary increases do not come close to keeping up with the rate of inflation, and many of my colleagues are leaving the district for Fairfax, Arlington or Falls Church for more money.</p> <p>I am currently in the position of needing to make a decision of whether or not I want to do the same. I am coming up on my last 3 years of work before retirement, and it would be in my best interest to switch districts to maximize my VRS post-retirement income.</p> <p>I'm keenly aware of the budget issues facing Alexandria but I strongly urge you to consider the future of our educational system and our City's children.</p>
Thursday, February 12, 2026	<p>I am a 3rd-grade teacher at a title 1 school on the west side of Alexandria. With the cost of living in Alexandria, I am barely making enough to get by. I am working paycheck to paycheck just to afford rent and groceries. I am also still using my own money to fund resources in my classroom to give my students an exciting education. Teachers' salaries need to be raised to match the expense of living in our beautiful city! I do not want to leave this city, both living and working, but I may have to if our school budget and teacher salaries are not increased!</p>
Thursday, February 12, 2026	<p>Hello I am a city resident and a ACPS staff member for 20years. *I would like for the city council members to know that ACPS has one of the lowest pay salary in this area. The support staff members (bus drivers, cafeteria staff, office staff and paraprofessionals) work the hardest to make sure schools are ran in a great manner. Yes I could maybe should be going to our school board members. I will not waste my time.</p>
Wednesday, February 11, 2026	<p>Dear Alexandria City Council and City Manager,</p> <p>Thank you for all that you do to make Alexandria City such a wonderful place to live. This is a welcoming, diverse, vibrant community because the people here believe in creating that kind of place. I know that it requires careful planning and balancing to make our budget meet the similarly diverse needs of a city like Alexandria. As a parent with two children in elementary school in ACPS, I believe that our schools are regularly called on to do a lot with not nearly enough resources. Because Virginia uses a staff-based model to assess educational costs and because of an unfair Local Composite Index formula, Alexandria City must shoulder an unreasonable portion of the expense of running our schools. I encourage City Council and the Mayor's office to press our state elected officials and leaders to address this situation. In the meantime, I ask that you do all that you can to meet the needs of our schools. Already, our schools are tightening budgets in painful ways for next year while grants that flowed freely in more prosperous times dry up. At Mount Vernon Community School, we are aware that our 3-5 grade after-school tutoring program for next year is unfunded thanks to budget cuts. For many complex reasons, ACPS will have a tough time meeting all the financial demands next year. A new collective bargaining agreement, inflation, and capital improvement demands are challenges that I know you are all aware of. I ask that you do everything you can to fund ACPS's budget, knowing that it is far, far from being funded to the level of its true needs.</p> <p>With gratitude, Evan Wilson</p>