

FY 2027 Budget Comments Received



New comments on top.

Date Received	Comment
Friday, February 27, 2026	I think the schools need a bigger budget increase. Especially in the West End, where there is already a lot of overcrowding and only getting worse.
Friday, February 27, 2026	I am writing to express my strong support for our public schools and to emphasize how deeply I care about the success of our students. I want our children to be set up for success after graduation. I also want our veteran teachers to remain in our schools. Their experience, dedication, and mentorship are invaluable to student achievement and to maintaining a stable, high-quality learning environment. Finally, maintaining reasonable class sizes is critical. Our students deserve individual attention and meaningful engagement in the classroom. I urge you to prioritize policies and funding that protect and strengthen our public schools.,
Friday, February 27, 2026	Please fulfill the ACPS request of a 3.5% increase in budget. Our public schools are the foundation of our community. My two daughters benefit daily from the passionate educators in ACPS schools. A 1.5% increase does not even cover a step increase for our under compensated educators. I want veteran, highly qualified teachers to remain at ACPS like Ms. Goodlin, who inspired both my girls to greater academic achievement in the 7th grade English classes at Hammond, and Mr Fox who inspired both of them to do amazing history day projects.
Friday, February 27, 2026	Hello, With the city's revenue increase I would like to see more of that revenue go into our schools. Currently, the 1.5% increase won't cover salary increases and other needs to keep our classroom sizes small and retain experienced experts, including teachers. Teachers deserve the salary increase just like a city employee. In fact, teachers are critical to ensuring the city's children become strong contributors once they graduate. Please increase the budget for ACPS. If the city cannot afford it, I suggest they find creative ways to raise the funds, including gathering ideas from its citizens.
Friday, February 27, 2026	As a resident and parent of an Alexandria Public Schools student, more money should be directed to educating our children.
Friday, February 27, 2026	Why do we treat our teachers like second class citizens? It has always amazed me that we under appreciate, under fund and under pay the very people that are shaping the lives of our future generations. Good teachers leave for for better pay in adjoining school systems for this very reason. Don't be apart of that drain. Fully fund the school and pay our teachers!!!
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	I am writing as a city resident and ACPS parent of 3, including one child at Hammond and two at Polk. As a resident of the city, I have come to understand and appreciate the many competing needs of the city that is struggling with limited funds. However, I nevertheless feel strongly that the city should do everything in its power to meet the proposed budget presented by ACPS to the extent possible. Public education is more important now than ever, and we risk losing our best educators and staff if we continue to ask them to do more with less. My children attend overcrowded schools with teacher-to-student ratios that make me want to cry. Moreover, an overwhelming number of students in the classroom require additional support, making the work of managing a class of 24 children feel twice as hard. We are faced with cutting invaluable language programs, and balancing the needs to of rebuilding crumbling schools with other schools that are far too overcrowded. At the same time, as a parent active in my children's schools, I see firsthand how hard the staff work every day to keep all of our students healthy and on track to be successful humans. And shouldn't the creation of successful humans be at the top of our priority list as a city? I recognize the many other funding needs the city faces but we will fail as a city in the long run if our future residents are not successful adults. I constantly hear that ACPS is viewed as "less than" neighboring schools systems and that this is why many friends, colleagues, and acquaintances did not consider moving here when it came time to buy a home and build a family. While I do not agree with this take on ACPS, I do not think we can ignore the fact that if we want to create a world-class city that attracts business and investment, we have to consider that the reputation of our schools, deserved or not, plays an important role in the process. We should be digging into ensuring that all Alexandria students receive an education that is considered to be on par with the surrounding districts. We must set the bar higher.
Tuesday, February 24, 2026	As a parent of a second grader at Samuel Tucker Elementary, I am concerned that our schools do not have sufficient funding to support students effectively. Neighboring jurisdictions can offer higher teacher salaries, and strong educators have options. Large class sizes are also a concern. Where we put our money shows what we prioritize. If education is truly a priority, our budget should reflect that commitment. Will you commit to increasing funding for our schools so we can remain competitive and provide students with the support they deserve?
Monday, February 23, 2026	How much does it cost the city to administer the residential parking program? How much revenue does that program bring in?
Monday, February 23, 2026	This is what you get for electing democrats.

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Monday, February 23, 2026	<p>Hello!</p> <p>I would love the city to explore a pedesetrian signal at commonwealth from Ancell to Mount Vernon Ave. Many of us from Warwick Village use that as a key space to cross commonwealth and during rush hour, it can be impossible to get cars to stop (even with a stroller).</p> <p>Thanks, Kate</p> <p>Prior Submission:</p> <p>Your Comments: Hi! Would it be possible to install a pedestrian signal that flashes to get traffic to stop while crossing commonwealth from Ancell to mount vernon ave? Not a huge problem in the day, but at night especially in the winter cars don't see people. Would especially be helpful during rush hour.</p> <p>Staff Comments: Kate,</p> <p>Thank you for contacting the City of Alexandria with your request for flashing pedestrian beacons stop signs at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Ancell Street.</p> <p>The City takes mobility, access, and traffic safety very seriously and has several plans and programs in place to enhance safety for all roadway users, such as the Vision Zero Action Plan, Complete Streets Program, and the Alexandria Mobility Plan.</p> <p>At this time, staff resources and funding are currently committed to other priority projects for this fiscal year. However, staff appreciates you taking the time to share your suggestions and will take your request into consideration as they plan future safety improvements.</p> <p>Thank you again for contacting the City of Alexandria with your concerns. Should you have any additional questions, do not hesitate to contact us.</p> <p>Bryan Hayes Complete Streets Coordinator</p>
Sunday, February 22, 2026	<p>As a parent of students in our public schools, I urge you to prioritize funding for our city's schools in the FY 2027 Operating Budget at this critical moment. We must remain competitive in attracting and retaining high-quality teachers, and that means ensuring they feel valued, supported, and fairly compensated so they are not forced to leave our community. We are at a pivotal time when supporting the whole child — academically, socially, and emotionally — also means supporting their families. Many of our students are at risk and deserve the same access to strong learning opportunities, enrichment, and resources as their peers. We cannot continue placing the burden of closing opportunity gaps on our teachers and parents, who are already giving so much. While we are continuing to advocate at the state level for additional resources, we know that change there will take time. In the meantime, we are depending on you. Your investment in our public schools is an investment in our city's future workforce, safety, and economic stability. The decisions you make today will determine what our tomorrow looks like as a community. We cannot do this alone! We need you to stand with our students and families now. Please incorporate the school board approved budget into your budget plans to ensure we have a fighting chance. Thank you.</p>
Saturday, February 21, 2026	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When the original budget was presented in January a slide said that \$11.44 million was set aside for an approximately 5% raise for employees 2. The City of Alexandria advised the superintendent and school board they would only approve an additional 1.5 budget request. The superintendent asked for an additional 3.7 percent 3. Michelle Reif stated that if the city did not approve the full 3.7 % request staff would not even get a step increase. What happened to the reserve set aside for a 5% average pay raise, especially considering increased health care costs led to a decrease in take home pay for staff last year? 4. year 5. ACPS is being surpassed in salary enhancements by just about every district (last year neighboring districts provided staff with 5-8% salary increases and are providing the same this year) <p>The school board and superintendent are playing politics with the City of Alexandria regarding the livelihoods of staff. ACPS will blame the city for a lack of salary enhancements if the city refuses the 3.7 increase when the city provided budget guidance of approving 1.5 from the beginning. ACPS needs to cut funds from a multitude of sources, including an over bloated Central office staff and a building nobody works in, in order to provide those who serve students IN PERSON on a daily basis a fair and equitable salary that is comparable to surrounding districts.</p>
Saturday, February 21, 2026	<p>I am a parent at James K. Polk Elementary School, and school funding is extremely important to my family. My child depends on ACPS not only for academic learning, but also for a safe and supportive environment every day.</p> <p>Strong funding ensures smaller class sizes, dedicated teachers, and essential programs that help students grow both academically and emotionally. Budget cuts would directly affect my child and many other students in our community.</p> <p>Please prioritize full and strong funding for ACPS so our children can continue to receive the quality education they deserve.</p>
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>
Friday, February 20, 2026	<p>Hello, I am writing to express my support for ACPS funding. Our school system faces many challenges, including overcrowding especially at many of the elementary schools and all the middle schools. Without funding for teachers, our students will receive a sub par education. I also support turning one of the elementary schools into another middle school or building a new middle school on the west end, to make the middle school environment safer for our children.</p>

Date Received	Comment
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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
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>
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>

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, February 12, 2026	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!
Thursday, February 12, 2026	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.
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>