



## FY 2022 Recommended Budget Budget Question

Board Question #: 36

**BUDGET QUESTION:** Have the Schools included the ARPA funds in their FY 2022 Budget proposal? Isn't it likely that they could make use of the ARPA funds to free local funds already planned in FY 2022 to be able to cover the \$2.1M budget gap?

**RESPONDING DEPARTMENT/OFFICE:** Schools

**RESPONSE:** The School Board's budget does not include any portion of the ARPA funds. As detailed guidance, requirements, and parameters surrounding the use of the funds has not yet been provided by the federal government (the grantor) or the State government (the grantee from which school divisions will receive subaward grants), we are not able to provide an informed response to this question at this time. We can say that the federal funding is one-time money, and aside from capital projects, we have few, if any, one-time expenses within our FY 2022 Budget.

In regards to capital projects, we have been advised by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) that the ARPA funds (the Schools' funding through this federal program is termed "ESSER III") can be used only for school construction projects as they relate to a direct need connected to COVID-19. As many school divisions are interested in the capital projects provision, the VDOE is seeking more specific guidance on this matter from the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Treasury.

**ESTIMATE OF STAFF TIME SPENT ON RESPONSE:**