



FY 2018 Recommended Budget Budget Question

Board Question #: 41

BUDGET QUESTION: What is the School Board doing to reduce class size for grades 1-3? Is any money in the FY 2018 Budget being used to do that?

RESPONSE: Each year the Virginia Department of Education provides localities with funding for the purpose of maintaining lower class sizes in grades K-3 in schools designated as economically disadvantaged according to the USDA. The VDOE determines the funding formula used to provide funds to school divisions for eligible schools as part of the “K-3 Class Size Reduction Program.”

SCPS has three schools that currently receive State funding to maintain lower class sizes in grades K-3 at a ratio no larger than 23:1. Seven additional schools receive State funding to maintain lower class sizes in grades K-3 at a ratio no larger than 24:1. The funding formulas are updated every two years. The most recent formula update took effect this current school year and will remain in effect through the 2017-2018 school year. Although the State funding is appreciated, it can have potential negative implications on the other remaining seven elementary schools that are not eligible for the “K-3 Class Size Reduction Program.” The remaining seven schools may have larger class sizes to absorb the lower class sizes at the other ten schools due to staffing constraints.

The division’s FY 2018 budget does not include any new positions.