

# Excellence at a Crossroads



Fairfax County residents believe in the value of a strong public school system. Residents live here because of the excellence of Fairfax County Public Schools — even our community members with grown children.

**An excellent public education drives the local economy.** Even at a time when employment opportunities may be impacted by changes in the federal government, families still value an outstanding education and better opportunities for their children.



**Excellence in FCPS means limitless opportunities** — building upon strong academics. This includes special education programs and services that far exceed state requirements, even though the state provides less funding for education than nearby states.

**Limitless opportunities mean extracurriculars and activities** like elementary strings and languages, championship sports teams, robotics and STEM programs, and award-winning fine arts.



**Excellence in Fairfax County Public Schools comes from its people** — dedicated teachers and support staff who make sure that our students are ready to learn. They include our safe bus drivers, our caring family liaisons, and our food and nutrition staff committed to providing healthy meals.

**Today, that excellence is at a crossroads.**

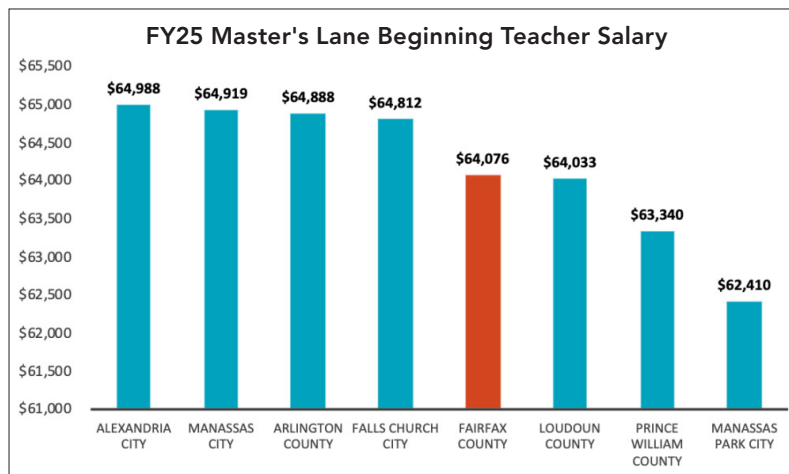
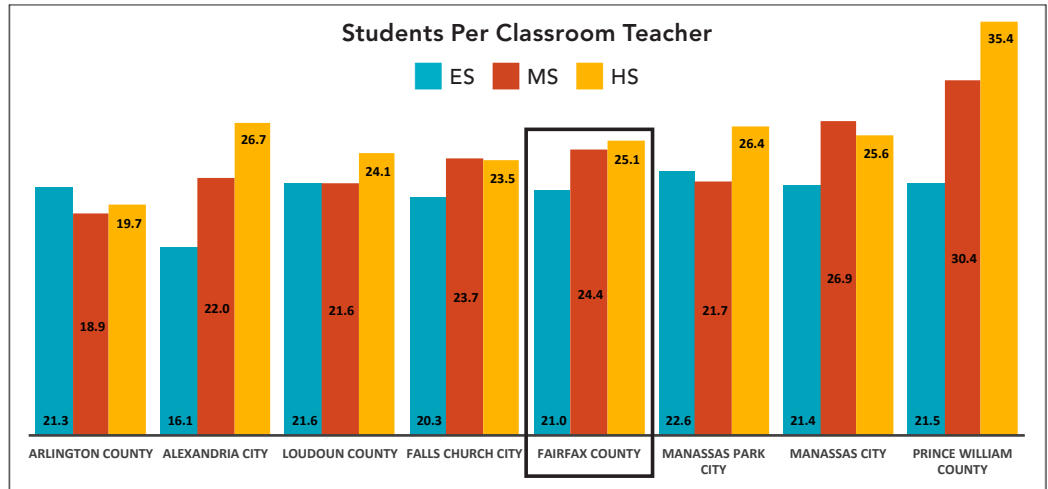
# For decades, the Commonwealth has underfunded public schools — for FCPS alone this underfunding amounts to \$568.7 million each year or the equivalent of \$3,100 per pupil.

- ▶ In Virginia, state aid to public education was listed as the second largest program potentially affected by reductions in federal funding.
- ▶ The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will finalize the budget on Tuesday, May 6. The current advertised budget underfunds FCPS by \$150 million.
- ▶ All of this data highlights the potential risks to our community.

Over the past 10 years, **FCPS has implemented reductions, cost avoidances, and fee enhancements of more than \$800 million** to align with the funding levels provided.

**Teacher pay and class size continue to suffer** for it, with FCPS near the bottom compared to surrounding districts.

**Without an increase in funding, FCPS will continue to fall below our neighboring districts** — impacting our ability to attract and retain the best teachers.



## FCPS cannot continue to sustain excellence with ongoing underfunding and budget cuts.

- ▶ Do we want safe, secure, and up-to-date buildings?
- ▶ Do we want the best teachers who can afford to live and work in our community?
- ▶ Do we want to maintain smaller class sizes?
- ▶ Do we want STEAM, middle school athletics, and a wide variety of career and technical programs like our Academies?

We are at a crossroads. FCPS cannot cut its budget anymore without impacting the classroom experience.

Now is the time. Do we want continued excellence, or are we ready to consider cuts to important programs that we have come to expect from FCPS?

Do you believe in the power and promise of public education?

**GO TO:**  
[fcps.edu/crossroads](https://fcps.edu/crossroads)

