Our Budget Development Principles
Loudoun County Public Schools

We, the collective leadership of Loudoun County Public Schools, rely on three budget principles to guide the development of our Operating Budget: a success mentality, a strategic approach, and transparency.

This approach supports fulfilling our mission and strategic goals.

Mission: Empowering all students to make meaningful contributions to the world.
Goal One: Develop knowledgeable critical thinkers, communicators, collaborators, creators, and contributors.
Goal Two: Cultivate a high performing team focused on our mission and goals.
Goal Three: Deliver effective and efficient support for student success.

1. Success
We exhibit a success mentality through three key actions.

- We define success by whether we fulfill our mission and achieve our strategic goals. Therefore, the driving question for our work with the budget is “What budget should we propose to fulfill our mission & achieve our strategic goals?” We don’t let difficult fiscal times deter us from this focus or serve as an excuse for not fulfilling our mission.
- We demonstrate and foster the belief that we can and will attain outstanding results because of our hard work; and
- We seek the resources needed to fulfill our mission and achieve our strategic goals.

2. Strategy
We adopt a strategic approach in reassessing current expenditures and considering new expenditures. As we develop budget proposals, we engage in sustained inquiry by asking numerous questions, finding helpful resources, and applying information to make sound decisions.

- What new investments will help us fulfill our mission and achieve our goals?
- What clear and compelling justification will we provide for new and restored expenditures?
- What opportunities exist for improved efficiencies and reduced expenditures?
- Given our mission and goals, how should we prioritize? What expenditures, if any, would yield greater benefits if they were spent differently? Are there purchases, initiatives, or services we should discontinue in order to fund other items that constitute higher priorities?
- What collaborative, open processes will we use to consider the voices of internal and external stakeholders in developing our budget proposals?
- How can we effectively critique and revise our proposals?

3. Transparency
We emphasize transparency in order to build awareness of our needs and of our good stewardship of taxpayer funds. Loudoun County Public Schools have a strong track record of combining high student performance with good stewardship of taxpayer funds.

We promote public awareness and understanding of the way in which we use our funds. We clearly explain how we currently spend our money and how we would spend additional funds we seek. We provide summaries as well as supporting details regarding existing and proposed expenditures.