Loudoun County Public Schools General Operating Budget

The general operating budget provides funding for all the day-to-day operations of the school division, such as staff salaries and benefits, textbooks, supplies and utilities. Outlined below are the steps in the annual general operating budget process.

**AUGUST-JANUARY**
**Superintendent’s Proposed Budget**
Throughout the fall, the Superintendent meets with Cabinet members and school division leadership to collect information about student enrollment growth, department needs and opportunities for program expansion or reallocations. This information is compiled into the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget, which starts the budget deliberation process.

**JANUARY-FEBRUARY**
**School Board Work Sessions and Public Hearings**
School Board members hear presentations from Cabinet members regarding their needs for the upcoming year and have an opportunity to ask questions about various line items. During this first stage in the process, community members may speak to the School Board about specific programs or needs impacting them or their family members.

**FEBRUARY-MARCH**
**Board of Supervisors Public Hearings**
The Board of Supervisors simultaneously considers the financial needs of various County departments and the school system. While the Board of Supervisors conducts public hearings on the budget, it does not make decisions regarding specific items in the school division’s budget.

**APRIL**
**School Board Budget Reconciliation and Adoption**
Once the School Board has received a funding amount for the upcoming fiscal year, it must compare the amount received against the amount requested. If the amount received is less than requested, a process called reconciliation begins. It is during this time that the School Board makes decisions about specific programs and positions.

**APRIL**
**School Board Budget Finalized**
Once reconciliation is complete, the School Board votes on a final budget to be used for operating the school system in the upcoming fiscal year, beginning July 1.

Public input is welcome at any time but specifically during budget work sessions and public hearings (*). LCPS Communications and Outreach Committee, 2017.