



# Loudoun County Public Schools Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 7, 2024

**ASHBURN, Va.** - The Loudoun County School Board (LCSB) adopted the FY25 Budget during the [Operating Budget Adoption and Public Hearing](#) on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at the Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) Administrative Offices in Ashburn. Over 60 community members provided comments and feedback for the Board to consider as they finalized the over \$1.8B operating fund.

The School Board's Adopted Fiscal Year 2025 Budget reflects the priorities put forth by Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence for the next fiscal year:

- Holding students at the center of our work
- Enhancing staff recruitment and retention
- Focusing on new initiatives while at the same time strengthening existing programs

"This budget adoption is the perfect example of the school board and administration working together to ensure we are serving each and every student every day," stated Dr. Spence. "This budget includes an average 6.5% salary increase for our employees as well as sign-on bonuses for recruitment and retention efforts and focuses on the needs of our unique and diverse student population."

About \$33.4M of the FY25 budget increase supports students, including opening two new schools, supporting LCPS' growing English Learners population, which is projected to increase by 6.4%, as well as students receiving special education services, which is predicted to grow by 4.1%. Overall, 89% of the total budget increase will go to supporting school-based staff and needs.

Also included in this budget is the introduction of a new alternative program at the North Star School for required student placements, alternative disciplinary student placements, and with the potential to provide intensive support programs for students with autism spectrum disorders and emotional disabilities.

There are other needs addressed in this budget as well, including digital security enhancements, expansion of the Division of Diversity Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility to address state requirements around cultural competency, allotments for staffing flexibility and a

new school extra-curricular allotment to provide funding support for student clubs and extracurricular activities. This new allotment supports the Board of Supervisors and prior School Board priority of reducing and/or eliminating student fees.

The School Board amended the FY25 Superintendent's Estimate of Needs budget but maintained the same level of expenditure and county funding. The changes from the Superintendent's FY25 Estimate of Needs were the result of adopted motions by the School Board. These motions included:

- Implementing the full expansion of full-day STEP (pre-K) program
- Conducting an assessment of needs to determine the implementation of the Virtual Distance Learning Elementary program
- Supporting the Special Education program with additional resources

"I am so proud of the work we did together to accomplish such a strong budget that continues to focus on the needs of students and staff even with the unique circumstances of a tight timeline, a new board and a new superintendent," said Chairwoman Melinda Mansfield. "I thank my board members, the superintendent and our budget team for their thoughtfulness, dedication and hard work as we worked together to meet the needs of the school division."

The School Board's Adopted Fiscal Year 2025 Budget will now be considered by the Board of Supervisors, starting with a Joint Work Session with the School Board on Thursday, February 22, 2024.

###

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Dan Adams  
Public Information Officer  
(o) 571.252.1237  
(c) 571.479.9177  
[daniel.adams@lcps.org](mailto:daniel.adams@lcps.org)