Community Budget Input Survey
Winter 2022

How familiar are you with the new strategic plan, **Learning for All?**				
Answer	**Responses**	**Value**	**%**	**Percentage of total respondents**
1 - Not familiar	68	1	8.10%	
2	62	2	7.39%	
3	63	3	7.51%	
4 - Somewhat familiar	198	4	23.60%	
5	141	5	16.81%	
6	126	6	15.02%	
7 - Very familiar	181	7	21.57%	

Survey Questions and Results

The budget process began by soliciting ideas from staff and students about their experiences in Albemarle County Public Schools. Those ideas were grouped based on the strategic plan objectives they most closely aligned to and were presented to the community for their input.

Each question on the survey was related to one of the strategic objectives, with examples of budget ideas in support of the objective. Respondents were asked to rate how well the budget ideas support the objective and help realize the strategic plan, Learning for All.

To interpret the ratings, a weighted score is provided. Lower weighted scores are areas with less community support and higher weighted scores have more community support. A weighted score of 3.5 is the average and show neither positive or negative community support. Respondents were also asked to submit qualitative feedback including additional ideas. Those comments have been summarized with each question.

Goal 1, Objective 1

Proposed recommendations to support this objective:
- Investigate a math program that can be used across the Division for extra help with math.
- Expand access to materials to support all students, both those who excel and those who struggle.
- Continue to fund access to virtual learning.

Answer	Responses	Value	%	Percentage of total respondents
1 - Not at All	18	1	1.93%	
2	80	2	8.57%	
3 - Somewhat	252	3	27.01%	
4	369	4	39.55%	
5 - Very well	214	5	22.94%	
Total Responses: 933				**Weighted Score: 3.73**

Summary of comments:
- More equity, between schools, in elective offerings
- In-person math intervention, virtual intervention is not as effective; math specialists
- Continue/Expand ACPS@Home
- Smaller class sizes, or more staff to facilitate opportunities for small group instruction
- Training for secondary teachers on remediation materials/strategies
- Expanded mental health support
- Support for students who are taking advanced coursework (AP/DE) for the first time
- More course options based on student interest

Goal 1, Objective 2

Proposed recommendations to support this objective:
- Continue to monitor the homework and grading policies to make sure they allow students time outside of school for their personal interests.
- Investigate the possibility of shifting the student schedule to include more time for independent and collaborative work, as well as teacher-led intervention.

Answer	Responses	Value	%	Percentage of total respondents
1 - Not at All	34	1	3.67%	
2	99	2	10.69%	
3 - Somewhat	218	3	23.54%	
4	337	4	36.39%	
5 - Very well	238	5	25.70%	
Total Responses: 926				**Weighted Score: 3.70**

Summary of comments:
- Permanently fund social/emotional coaches
- Clarify the homework and grading policies to better support teachers and students/ teaching and learning
- Consider an "Away for the Day" policy for all secondary schools
- Expand family support/social workers to be available to more families and continue their work within the school setting
- More frequent opportunities for students to connect with teachers, counselors, advisors, mentors about their current state and future goals
- Expand access to Pre-Kindergarten
- Partner with community groups/organizations to provide afterschool opportunities
- Create more low-commitment opportunities for students to participate in electives, sports, and pursue personal interest

Goal 1, Objective 3

Proposed recommendations to support this objective:
- Make sure students have more relevant learning experiences that focus on student choice, hands-on learning, and variety in learning strategies.
- Look into ways to expand and support extracurricular activities to make them accessible to all students.

Answer	Responses	Value	%	Percentage of total respondents
1 - Not at All	22	1	2.37%	
2	60	2	6.45%	
3 - Somewhat	195	3	20.97%	
4	363	4	39.03%	
5 - Very well	290	5	31.18%	
Total Responses: 930				**Weighted Score : 3.90**

Summary of comments:
- Build another high school, make each one a center
- Provide more professional learning about Development Designs
- Expand before and after school child care to support families
- Encourage and solicit more student feedback about their experiences to inform programs and extra- and co-curricular options
- More project- and problem-based learning connected to the communities around schools
- Funded extracurricular opportunities

Goal 2, Objective 1

Proposed recommendations to support this objective:
- Provide professional learning opportunities for all staff related to supporting student mental health, culturally responsive teaching, trauma informed education.
- Expand opportunities for students to explore their interests and careers, without creating or continuing barriers to access for students.

Answer	Responses	Value	%	Percentage of total respondents
1 - Not at All	34	1	3.77%	
2	70	2	7.75%	
3 - Somewhat	205	3	22.70%	
4	314	4	34.77%	
5 - Very well	280	5	31.01%	
Total Responses: 903				**Weighted Score: 3.82**

Summary of comments:
- Provide dedicated English Learning, Special Education, and social e-mail support at all centers and the Virtual School
- Creating more opportunities for students to share their community and culture with one another
- Implement restorative justice in the schools
- Make Culturally Responsive Teaching training available for parents/community members so they can raise their own cultural awareness
- Recommit to anti-bullying training
- Provide funding to build out culturally representative classroom libraries
- Open schools, some evenings, as "community hubs" to foster more community interaction
- An equal focus on staff mental health
- Include all kinds of diversity in the curriculum so all students feel represented

Goal 2, Objective 2

Proposed recommendations to support this objective:
- Develop and implement staff wellness and recognition programs.
- Investigate ways to better connect ACPS students with community-based resources.
- Increase dedicated time for teachers to plan for student learning.

Answer	Responses	Value	%	Percentage of total respondents
1 - Not at All	31	1	3.41%	
2	65	2	7.16%	
3 - Somewhat	192	3	21.15%	
4	316	4	34.80%	
5 - Very well	304	5	33.48%	
Total Responses: 908				Weighted Score: 3.88

Goal 2, Objective 2
- Provide regular protected planning time for teachers
- Create a support structure for intervention positions (i.e. Tas)
- Recess for middle school, and more breaks for students when needed
- Recognition for all types of staff
- Student wellness and recognition programs
- Redistribute responsibilities currently held by teachers and administrators (i.e. drop-off/pick-up, hallway monitoring, lunch duty, parking lots)

While there are no specific initiatives aligned to **Goal 2, Objective 3**, we received a few comments with recommendations.
- More in-person outreach to inform difficult to reach communities about opportunities in schools and the school division
- Make all division materials available in more languages

Goal 3, Objective 1

Proposed recommendations to support this objective:
- Hire more substitute teachers, including permanent substitutes for each school.
- Hire more teaching assistants to decrease the student-to-adult ratios in elementary schools.
- Provide additional, in-person support to new teachers

Answer	Responses	Value	%	Percentage of total respondents
1 - Not at All	15	1	1.63%	
2	50	2	5.42%	
3 - Somewhat	170	3	18.44%	
4	262	4	28.42%	
5 - Very well	425	5	46.10%	
Total Responses: 922				**Weighted Score: 4.12**

Goal 3, Objective 1
- Increase staff compensation, for all positions
- Additional funds for classroom materials
- Focus on retention of support staff, as well as teachers
- Provide professional learning and development opportunities for support staff
- More mentorship for new staff
- Restructure positions to make more full-time positions (eliminating part-time, fractional and split positions)

Goal 3, Objective 2

Proposed recommendations to support this objective:
- Audit school facilities to evaluate where inequities in resources (i.e. playgrounds, field quality, parking) are and how to bring facilities to greater consistency.
- Create more outdoor learning spaces, including outdoor classrooms.
- Look into ways to update classrooms to create more opportunities for small group or independent learning, including more space with charging capabilities.

Answer	Responses	Value	%	Percentage of total respondents
1 - Not at All	25	1	2.73%	
2	62	2	6.76%	
3 - Somewhat	156	3	17.01%	
4	297	4	32.39%	
5 - Very well	377	5	41.11%	
Total Responses: 917			**Weighted Score: 4.02**	

Goal 3, Objective 2
- Electric school buses, and charging on school buses
- More charging stations that are accessible and leave devices usable while charging
- Intentional outdoor spaces, not just tents
- Constructing a fourth high school
- Start environmentally friendly programs at schools: gardens, solar panels, recycling, composting, etc.
- Conduct traffic studies and encourage new trails/pathways be established to minimize issues associated with drop-off/pick-up
- Evaluate opportunities for environmentally friendly landscaping and design of schools: pollinator gardens, grey water landscaping, windows for ventilation
- Ensure outdoor spaces are age-appropriate, have wi-fi and are accessible to all students

Goal 3, Objective 3

Proposed recommendations to support this objective:
- Consider job responsibilities to inform staffing standards across schools (i.e. School Testing Coordinators, intervention and prevention services).
- Implement additional extra- and co-curricular activities for students, at no cost to student or family, and with transportation provided.
- Audit shared school materials and create a replacement cycle to keep all materials up-to-date.

Answer	Responses	Value	%	Percentage of total respondents
1 - Not at All	14	1	1.53%	
2	45	2	4.90%	
3 - Somewhat	188	3	20.48%	
4	350	4	38.13%	
5 - Very well	321	5	34.97%	
Total Responses: 918			**Weighted Score: 4.00**	

Goal 3, Objective 3
- Re-examine differentiated staff to better account for the extremes, and to be flexible throughout the school year
- Consider students with special/additional needs when planning co- and extra-curricular experiences
- Support division-level subscriptions rather than school-level to even out options/supports

Respondent Demographics

Q18. I am:			
Responses	Responses	%	Percentage of total respondents
Community Member	20	2.09%	
ACPS Employee	223	23.30%	
ACPS Parent	470	49.11%	
ACPS Parent & Employee	119	12.43%	
ACPS Student	125	13.06%	

Q19. Ethnicity/Race (check all that apply)			
Responses	Responses	%	Percentage of total respondents
Asian	53	6.02%	
Black/African American	74	8.40%	
Hispanic/Latino	69	7.83%	
Native American/Alaska Native	23	2.61%	
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	14	1.59%	
White	731	82.97%	
Because multiple answers per participant are possible, the total percentage may exceed 100%.			

Q20. Gender			
Responses	Responses	%	Percentage of total respondents
Female	632	70.22%	
Male	244	27.11%	
Non-binary	24	2.67%	

Q21. In my household:			
Responses	Responses	%	Percentage of total respondents
We primarily speak English	806	88.47%	
We primarily speak another language	33	3.62%	
We speak both English and another language	72	7.90%	