

To: School Board Members
From: Staff
Date: March 20, 2023
Subject: Responses #3 to FY 2023/24 Draft Funding Request Questions



The following question was asked by School Board members during the FY 24 Budget Development Work Sessions. Staff have provided responses in this memo and will follow up on any outstanding questions with a later memo.

1. Would you please re-consider the number of English Learner (EL) teachers we are planning for next year, in anticipation of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) plans to settle a large number of families next year in our area?

According to Monte Hackney, the IRC's Youth Programs Supervisor, the IRC has not received their projected allocation for next year but estimate it to be between 225-285 based on this year's allocation. 265 is an appropriate number to work with; he's not including private resettlement, as that is brand new and no one knows what's going to happen there. He stressed that the prior year was an outlier due to the Afghan evacuation, but also that current world events make numbers extremely unpredictable.

The hardest prediction for the IRC right now is housing because the market is so tight; there's no way to know where families will end up. However, in his experience, about one-half of the IRC refugees are children (approx. 132) and of those, approx. one-third end up in Albemarle County (approx. 40) with the other third in Charlottesville and outlying areas. Those 40 include preschool children, so he estimates approximately 30 children in ACPS K-12. He stresses this is an estimate because it's so unpredictable and it is difficult to determine where and when they may enroll.

We will monitor the situation and add staff as needed. We would also like to consider funding to create pipelines for teachers to add their EL certification with high quality instruction.