



Chesapeake Public Schools  
School Administration Building  
Post Office Box 16496  
Chesapeake, Virginia 23328

May 22, 2008

Dear Citizens of Chesapeake:

Enclosed please find the approved 2008-2009 Operating Budget and the 2009-2010 Planning Budget for Chesapeake Public Schools.

**Approved 2008-2009 Operating Budget**

The total approved 2008-09 operating budget is \$428,682,708, which represents an increase of \$23,831,999 or 5.89% more than the budget for the 2007/08 school year. Revenue resources are as follows:

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Current 07/08</u>	<u>Approved 08/09</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Federal	3,000,000	3,250,000	250,000	8.33%
State	215,500,024	237,699,759	22,199,735	10.30%
General Fund	183,941,685	185,006,949	1,065,264	.58%
<u>Other Local</u>	<u>2,409,000</u>	<u>2,726,000</u>	<u>317,000</u>	<u>13.16%</u>
Total	404,850,709	428,682,708	23,831,999	5.88%

Student enrollment is expected to decline 450 students, which will be the third straight year of enrollment decline. Notwithstanding the enrollment projections, the school division still faces many increased costs next year.

- Increase in supplies and equipment for the new Oscar Smith Middle School building
- Increases in energy and utility expenses
- Continued replacement of an aging bus fleet
- Increases in health insurance rates
- Salary increases
- Increase in SECEP tuition
- Increases in textbook adoptions
- Increases for the first year of the Technology Academy
- Replacement of outdated computers and related technology equipment, and increases in maintenance and service contracts
- Increase in building maintenance projects
- Continued advances for reporting employee time in keeping with federal FLSA regulations

The future of our school division is guided by seven strategic goals. These goals provide the framework for formulating the 2008/09 spending plan. The goals adopted by the School Board are as follows:

- **ensure rigorous educational standards,**
- **ensure school safety,**
- **broaden community involvement,**
- **provide effective staff training,**
- **optimize the use of technology,**
- **evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of what we do, and**
- **provide optimal school facilities.**

In accordance with the strategic goal of ensuring **rigorous educational standards**, this budget includes funding for supplies and equipment for the new Oscar Smith Middle School building, textbook adoptions, continued implementation of the International Baccalaureate program, AVID program, READ 180 program, K-2 handwriting program, dual enrollment, and advanced placement classes. Also provided are positions for the first year of the technology academy, regular and special education classroom positions, AFJROTC instructors at Grassfield High School, and additional teachers for English and Math at high-risk middle schools.

Another of our strategic goals is to provide **optimal school facilities**. In that regard, there is a small increase in the transfer of Lottery funding to the building fund to assist with capital needs and additional funds are allocated for custodial and maintenance supplies. To support **school safety**, additional clinic assistants for schools with enrollments over 750 are requested and the cyclical replacement of approximately **35** school buses and 6 additional buses and drivers will be added to the fleet for the opening of the technology academy.

In recognition of the importance of **technology** in our modern society, this budget continues to meet SOQ requirements for one technology instructional and one technology support position for every 1,000 students enrolled. Increased support for our instructional and administrative data systems is provided along with provisions for replacement computers and technology related equipment. In the classroom, this budget maintains the current five to one student-to-computer ratio.

In the area of **effective staff training**, funds have been included to provide training for technology, benchmark testing, new textbook adoptions, and paraprofessional training. We will also continue to utilize our own staff members to conduct staff development training through the Instructional Institute.

Finally, this budget continues our program evaluation effort and school improvement planning. These efforts will improve **efficiency and effectiveness** and **broaden community involvement** in our schools as we systematically evaluate our programs and implement the strategic planning process.

While the preceding discussion provides a brief overview of the budget as it relates to the strategic goals of the school division, it is the human factor that brings us closer to making our vision for the future a full reality. Attracting and retaining the best professional and support staff is critical to accomplish the instructional tasks before us. In recognition of this, the budget includes funding to provide a 3.2% salary increase for all employees and to implement the first year of the recent salary study at 1.4%. Coupled with a full range of health benefits, including a new diabetes wellness program, these actions will assist us in both retaining and attracting the quality men and women who contribute so much to educating the children of our great city.

### **2009-2010 Planning Budget**

The planning budget is \$448,706,095, which represents an increase of 4.67% over the approved 2008-09 operating budget. Student enrollment is expected to decline 250 students from the 2008-09 projection. Even with a decline in student enrollment, costs continue to increase. The planning budget calls for:

- 3.5% salary increase
- Positions for the second year of the technology academy
- Higher health insurance costs
- Increases in energy costs

The alignment of a comprehensive and responsible spending plan with the strategic goals of our school division results from many hours of work and much deliberation. Again this year, the process called for many difficult choices. The 2008-2009 operating budget meets the challenges we face in the continued growth of our city and maintains the high standards that have made our schools successful in the past. The budget process is evidence of our efforts to **work together to educate all of the children of all of the citizens of Chesapeake**. Your consistent support has made these efforts successful, and we are grateful for the important role you play.

Sincerely,

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHESAPEAKE

Mr. Thomas Mercer, Sr., Chairman  
Mr. Michael J. Woods, Vice Chairman  
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