



PRESS RELEASE

Prince George's County Public Schools • www.pgcps.org
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRINCE GEORGE'S SCHOOLS BUDGET TIED TO 'QUALITY SCHOOLS PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN'

Proposed \$1.4 Billion Budget Focused on Raising Test Scores

In order to continue lifting overall academic performance, Prince George's County Public Schools CEO André J. Hornsby last night recommended a \$1.4 billion FY 2006 operating budget to the Board of Education. The amount is a 12.1-percent increase over FY2005.

In order to achieve the goals of Prince George's County Public Schools' *Quality Schools Program Strategic Plan*, proposed budget priorities include improving high school assessment test results, major school improvement efforts, improving technology in the schools as well as student access to technology, expanding pre-kindergarten classes, enhancing the core curriculum with a focus on mathematics and science, providing appropriate staffing at the school level, and providing salary improvements for all staff in accordance with contractual negotiated agreements.

"Our budget dollars are directly tied to achieving our mission-critical goals of high levels of achievement for all students, taught by highly qualified teachers, and in safe learning environments," Dr. Hornsby said. "Following our strategic plan, we will continue to improve the quality of school services while building strong relationships between our schools, the families of our students, their communities, and area businesses."

In the last 12 months, Prince George's County Public Schools has made great strides to balance its budget, raise scores on state and national exams, and lay the foundation for instructional improvements that will result in increased academic performance of all students in Prince George's County public schools.

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Board of Education of Prince George's County

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The development process for the proposed budget included three public forums, held in October and November, to receive public input on budget priorities. The Board of Education will hold three public hearings in January, as well as public work sessions on the budget in January and February. In addition, the school system's web site (www.pgcps.org) now includes a survey to gauge public opinion and gather feedback on budget policies and priorities.

The FY06 proposed budget includes more than \$50 million in program improvements including:

- Special Education Improvements - \$8.9 million
- Improvements in school based pay and staffing - \$8.3 million
- New textbooks - \$6.8 million
- Instructional Technology Improvements - \$6.3 million
- Expansion of pre-Kindergarten - \$5.7 million
- Additional and replacement buses, fuel and repair costs - \$5.3 million
- System support - \$3.7 million
- System-wide purchase of school furniture, lab equipment and uniforms - \$2.5 million
- Science and Math Curriculum Improvements - \$2.1 million
- Funding for teacher certification - \$1.2 million
- School security - \$800,000
- Choice Option Schools - \$300,000

Under the *Bridge to Excellence Act*, the school system needed to develop a five-year strategic plan to serve as the organizing document and driving force of the school system. Prince George's County Public Schools' *Quality Schools Program Strategic Plan* presents a long-range action plan for: improving the achievement of all students; maintaining a safe, orderly, and productive environment within all schools; improving management efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability; improving business and community partnerships; and creating and retaining a quality work force. The goals, objectives, and strategies presented in the plan are designed to focus on and direct school system decisions and actions over five years. The strategic plan is available to the public online at www.pgcps.org.