



PRESS RELEASE

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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School System Solicits Input on Budget For Next School Year

Public Invited to Plug Into Decision-Making Process Through Online Survey

In preparing the budget for the next school year, the Board of Education and Prince George's County Public Schools' Chief Executive Officer, Dr. André J. Hornsby, are going online to get connected with parents and all stakeholders in the success of the school system.

"Join us in the thought process," said Board of Education Chair Beatrice P. Tignor. "We are pleased to provide an innovative opportunity for everyone in our community to have input in the school system's budget choices."

A public opinion survey to gauge the general health of the school system will be posted on the county schools' web site (www.pgcps.org) today through January 19. County residents are encouraged to review the "Quality Schools Program Strategic Plan" and the current school year's budget for consideration when answering survey questions. The survey establishes an open forum to harness the public's overwhelming interest in education by gaining input on programs, identifying needs, targeting areas for improvements, and aligning priorities for the 2005-2006 school year.

"We are engaging the people we serve to identify priorities and help us make the critical decisions that provide a quality education in safe environments for all students," Dr. Hornsby said. "With the involvement of all stakeholders in the process, we can continue making the right choices that will increase overall achievement and improve the performance of special populations."

There will be ongoing opportunities for public participation in the budget process through Board of Education work sessions and open forums scheduled for:

- January 13 at Largo High School
- January 18 at Surrattsville High School
- January 19 at Rosaryville Elementary School

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Board of Education of Prince George's County



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All public forums begin at 7 p.m. Public comments are used during the creation of the budget document presented by the Board of Education to the County Executive for approval.

When logging on to the school system web site, participants will be able to review the current year's budget, including program improvements, and provide feedback by answering a series of questions that include ranking programs in 12 areas as "high, medium or low" priorities. People will see a comparison of Prince George's County public schools to other jurisdictions with regard to needs, including teacher salaries, costs per pupil, test scores, and more. There will also be space provided for general comments and to address specific areas that may not be covered in the survey.

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