



**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

October 21, 2011

Dear Override Volunteers,

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all of you who worked so tirelessly for the passage of a successful override in June.

Your hard work alone deserves our appreciation, but the fact that your work produced an affirmative override in these difficult financial times was remarkable, and has made a lasting impact on the Town. You did an extraordinary job of getting the message out to the voters in Arlington about the importance of preserving vital town and school services and programs. That communication involved enormous organization, planning, and commitment. Please know that the time you gave last spring to this effort was and is very much appreciated.

Had the override failed, the consequences would have been devastating for both municipal and school services. With respect to school services, as a result of your work we were able to preserve teaching positions and essential programs necessary for the educational development of our students. While we continue to have some large class sizes at both the elementary and secondary levels, few core classes have exceeded thirty students. Without the additional funds from the override, the number of classes with over thirty students would have been considerably higher this year.

At the elementary level, the override allowed us to add an additional teacher. Students have two classes in physical education each week instead of one. We hired teaching assistants to support large classes. We preserved an art and music class each week for all students. We hired an additional Traffic Supervisor.

At the secondary level, the override has meant restored or expanded elective offerings. For example, ACE, which was offered only in sixth grade last year, was again offered in seventh and eighth grade. We also restored the research skills class that had been lost, and added a physical education teacher to reduce class sizes. We added additional sections of Spanish and History at the high school to address enrollment increases. A 0.4 FTE World Language Coordinator was hired to oversee an expanding language program. With additional teacher support, we expanded The Senior Project/Capstone Program.

On the municipal side, your work not only enabled us to maintain critical services throughout all the departments but also provided increased funding for an urgently needed road improvement program. Over the next two to three years, residents will be able to see a very noticeable improvement to the conditions of our streets. In addition, your work prevented devastating cuts to already low police, fire, and public works staffing levels, and preserved critical transportation and other services for our elderly residents.

Your remarkable grassroots efforts have truly made a difference in the lives of all Arlington residents. The students in the Arlington Public Schools are having a much richer educational experience this year than they would have had without the funds provided by the override. The conditions of facilities such as streets and parks are improved, police and fire response times and services continue to be excellent, and the elderly continue to receive vital transportation services.

On behalf of all the residents of Arlington, we extend our deepest appreciation and gratitude for your dedication to the people and students of Arlington.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Brian Sullivan
Town Manager