



BUDGET CUTS WILL HIT: Arlington Public Schools

Arlington schools deliver above-average test scores and excellent college placement rates, while spending less per pupil than the state average. The U.S. Department of Education awarded Stratton a National Blue Ribbon; US News & World Report recognized Arlington High School twice with a Silver Medal; and the State gave Arlington commendations for high MCAS scores.

However, our schools have been hurt by cuts. To control costs over the past five years, school administration and support staff were cut, as well as funding for facilities, supplies, and textbooks. Last year, 32 teachers were cut—over 7.5% of the staff. The budget is now so lean that further reductions will leave APS no choice than to cut 60.4 more positions, mostly teachers.

What will happen without an override?

- Class sizes will increase significantly:
 - The average elementary class size will rise to 27 students and go as high as 33.
 - The average middle school class size will rise to 31 and go as high as 40.
 - The average high school class size will rise to about 30 and go as high as 40.
- Music classes will be decreased in the elementary schools and OMS.
- Physical education will be reduced to the state minimum of 1x/wk in the elementary schools.
- Students at the high school and middle school will have more directed studies (study halls) because there won't be enough courses to fill their schedules. Graduation requirements will be decreased for similar reasons.
- Traffic supervisors, whose jobs were restored this year, will be cut and there will be no traffic supervisors left in the district.
- Guidance counselors and social workers will be cut, affecting students in need of help and also the educational experience of every student in the schools. At AHS there will be fewer counselors to work closely with college-bound students and to provide vocational guidance to students who will be entering the workforce.
- Many more course offerings will be eliminated at the middle and high school. Since 2004, the high school has already lost 20 electives. The middle school recently made cuts to foreign languages, drama, the ACE program and other courses.
- Larger class sizes mean that teachers will have less time to spend with each student inside the classroom and less time for individual feedback on homework. Some classes will be so large that enough desks will not fit in the classrooms.
- Programs that save money in the long-run, such as the successful reading program in the elementary schools and interventions for at-risk students, will be compromised.
- The educational experience will change for students. There will be less time spent on writing papers, doing science experiments and other activities where teacher to student ratio needs to be lower due to the time required to provide supervision and feedback.

It's up to us. Vote Yes on June 7.

What will an override provide to the Arlington Public Schools?

The override will enable Arlington Public Schools to restore positions which otherwise would have been cut in the 2011-12 school year. In addition, the schools will receive an extra \$600,000 that will provide staffing and resources beyond 2010-11 levels.

(Fractional numbers indicate part-time staffing)

Arlington High School

Restores:

- 9.6 Classroom Teachers – Math, Science, Social Studies, World Language, English, Art, Music, Family & Consumer Science
- 1 Guidance Counselor
- 0.4 Social Worker goes to full time
- 1 Transitional Program Support
- 1.8 Administrators

Additional Items Added Back

- \$100,000 reduction in athletic fees
- 2 teachers of Elective Courses to reduce Directed Studies (study halls)

Elementary Schools

Restores:

- 17 Classroom Teachers
- 2 Specialists District-wide – Music, Physical Education
- The Thompson School's Principal, Clerk, 2 Custodians and Library aide (These staff will be redeployed throughout district in schools housing Thompson students while the school is being rebuilt.)

Additional Items Added Back

- 1 Classroom Teacher
- 2 Physical education teachers, so all students have gym 2 times a week

Ottoson Middle School

Restores:

- 8.9 Classroom Teachers – Math, Science, Social Studies, World Language, English, Art, Music, Family and Consumer Science
- 1.3 Math and Reading Support
- 0.5 Social Worker/Guidance
- 0.4 Gifted and Talented Teacher
- 0.6 Administrators

Additional Items Added Back

- 1.4 positions to restore Reading and Math Support to 2009-2010 level
- 2 teachers of Elective Courses to reduce Directed Studies (study halls)
- 0.6 Physical Education Teacher
- 0.4 Social Worker

District Wide

Restores:

- 9.5 Traffic Supervisors
- 0.2 World Language Curriculum and Instruction Planning
- 0.5 Superintendent Support
- 0.3 Assistant Superintendent
- 0.4 Facilities (maintenance)

Classroom Size By Year

(Range and top three most common classroom sizes)

