

Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #237

I would like to provide: *	Written Public Comments
My public comments are related to: *	Budget Public Hearing
Topic *	FY 2022 Budget
Full Name *	Cindy Hart
What is your relationship to ACPS? *	Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student
Enter your comments here OR upload below:	<p>The Special Education Advisory Committee passed a motion relating to the ACPS budget at our December 16, 2020, meeting.</p> <p>SEAC, as an advisory body, makes two recommendations:</p> <p>1) We urge the School Board to fully fund the special education operating budget. We hear frequently from parents of special needs students that virtual learning is incredibly challenging for their children, who in some cases refuse zooms and in many cases have suffered regression in their academics and in other skills. We also note an increased percentage of failing grades in middle and high school students with special needs in the first quarter of this school year relative to last school year. Much effort will be needed to assist the special needs population in recovering skills as we return to in-person learning. Fully funding the special education operating budget will set us on the right path in this necessary effort.</p> <p>2) We additionally advise increasing special education teacher reserve positions from four (4) to six (6). These extra two positions are deemed necessary by the Executive Director of Specialized Instruction, Terry Werner. SEAC supports funding this effort to help eliminate gaps in staffing.</p>