

Written Public Hearing Comments on FY25 Budget #734

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: *

Budget

Topic *

Cola for teachers

Full Name *

Kathleen Sokolove

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

I am here today to ask the school board and the superintendent to ensure that a cola is added to the budget request. In order for Alexandria to recruit, and perhaps even more importantly, retain teachers, our compensation needs to far outshine our neighbors. It seems there is no will to adjust steps for veteran teachers, so in the absence of that, no COLA is an insult. Teacher shortages are real and the smartest jurisdictions need to put all the resources available into making sure Alexandria City demonstrates an annual commitment to compensating the hard-working teachers in Alexandria City. If cutting corners is necessary, then consider providing COLA's only for school-based staff. I understand that city council may not approve the request but the onus is on the school board and superintendent to be fierce advocates for ensuring that our teachers the best rewarded teachers in Nova. This is essential as we move forward into a time where teachers will have a lot of choices about where to teacher as there will be more positions than teachers. Let us make sure that Alexandria City is the best place for teachers to work.