

Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#541

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: *

Budget

Topic *

My Students Need Your Help

Full Name *

Bethany Bonuedi

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Staff Member

Enter your comments here OR upload
below:

Comments are available on next page

- I teach Geometry and Algebra I at Minnie Howard. Because all 8th graders take Algebra I in ACPS, most of my 9th grade Algebra I students have previously taken this course without success. Therefore, pursuant to ACPS' Multi-Tiered System of Support, these students are in need of "Tier 2" support, having previously been unsuccessful in a Tier I classroom in 8th grade. In other words, our 9th grade Algebra I students should be taught in a **small-group** environment. Unfortunately, our current resources do not allow this. My Algebra I classes, including the LTEL inclusion courses, all have more than 20 students (in my LTEL inclusion sections, I serve as my own "co-teacher" because I'm dual-certified in Math and ESOL).
- A student-teacher ratio of 25:1 might not sound terrible, but please remember that these are very high-needs students. As I noted above most of my students **have already been unsuccessful in a traditional classroom**. They need a higher level of services than I can provide with my current class sizes and overall student load. We need more instructional staff, as well as counselors and social workers, in order to meet my students' needs.
- I really can't come up with words to describe the **intensity** of my students' needs, both academically and otherwise. They are trying to manage trauma, substance abuse, and other stressors. We—my students and I—are struggling to keep our heads above water. Please help us.
- In order to provide my students with the education they need **and deserve**, please:
 - Fully fund the school principal's FTE budget requests. Insist on seeing the principal's budget requests from the central office.
 - Add additional instructional staff, counseling, and social work positions.
 - In order to fill open FTE positions, improve compensation by eliminating more than one bottom step and increase the market rate adjustment (MRA) from 2.5% to at least 5%.