

Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#758

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: *

Budget

Topic *

Addition to the FY2025 Combined Funds Budget

Full Name *

April Lopez

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

Enter your comments here OR upload below:

I am writing in support of the continued funding of the student support positions being lost due to the upcoming expiry of ESSER funds. We heard at the January 18 public hearing from several students who emphasized the critical importance of academic, social and emotional support for Black, Latino, and marginalized students at ACHS. Yet these positions are being lost because the short-term funding they were created under is not being replaced in the next year's budget. This can only have a negative effect on the young people who rely on these trusted adults for support and guidance.

I would urge the School Board to provide funding to restore the positions that have been cut due to the end of the ESSER program; and to consider how far it might be possible to fund all the support positions, such as social workers, counselors and psychologists, that have been requested by school-based staff but have not been included in the current budget (according to Attachment 4 of the responses to the School Board Budget Questions). This would be an equity-focused decision, and would pay off in the long term by contributing to improved outcomes for Black, Latino and marginalized students.

At the time of writing, I do not yet know whether this item is supported on the add/delete list; however I believe it is important enough to take the time to write in the hope and expectation that members of the School Board will also have been moved by the eloquence of the student speakers, will have recognized the vital importance of these positions, and will have requested their addition. Thank you for your time.