

Budget and Financial Management

reserves of the City of Alexandria also are available to the division.

Salary Adjustments

All adjustments to ACPS salary scales are subject to School Board approval and are generally part of the normal budget development process for the subsequent fiscal year.

ACPS has four salary scales:

- The Support Scale is for paraprofessionals, clerical, technical, bus driver, custodial, and financial support staff.
- The Licensed Administrative Scale is primarily for licensed administrators in schools and departments. These include principals, assistant principals, and instructional department leadership positions.
- The Support Administrator scale is for leadership and specialized, technical positions in the support departments.
- The Professional Scale is for all teachers and other licensed staff such as school counselors, library media specialists, nurses, social workers, and psychologists.

Position Control

A position is defined as the authorization to hire an employee with full benefits. No position should be filled until it has been properly authorized and approved. Schools and departments are permitted to change budgeted positions, subject to Superintendent approval, as long as the change is aligned with the education plan and the changing needs of students. All position changes are reported as part of the budget cycle, through the preparation or approval of the subsequent fiscal year's budget.

Requests for new positions that result in an increase to FTEs must be approved by the School Board. Grant-funded positions may be added during the year when additional grant monies are awarded outside of the budget cycle. Changes in grant-funded position allocations are subject to the approval of the Superintendent, if not specifically directed by the grantor.

Modified Zero-Based Budgeting

For FY 2020, all departments prepared their budgets using the modified zero-based budgeting (MZBB) methodology which requires staff to scrutinize each line item and build their budget from the ground up. MZBB is difficult to administer for schools because many of their resources are determined by formula (e.g. core teaching staff, funds for supplies and stipends). For this reason, the standard budgeting process for school principals focuses on activities linked to the strategic plan.

Expenditure Controls

The official ACPS budget document is a means to formulate the planning and resource allocation for the school division. It also serves as the primary vehicle to inform Alexandria residents and the community at-large about the mission, strategic plan, and priorities of the school division. After the School Board adopts the final budget in June, it becomes the primary financial management tool for administering, controlling, and monitoring the expenditures.

The budget is controlled at both legal and administrative levels. The legal level is placed at the individual fund level, while administrative controls are placed at the office and school level within each fund.

Certain portions of the budget are administered and controlled centrally. Budgeting and monitoring of all full-time salary accounts and employee benefits are handled through a collaboration of the Financial Services and