

FY 2020 Rules of Engagement for School Board Budget Questions and the Add/Delete Process for the Combined Funds and 10-Year CIP Budgets

These rules of engagement establish the process to be used by the Superintendent, School Board, and staff of Alexandria City Public Schools during the School Board Budget Question period and add/delete process.

I. School Board Budget Questions:

The School Board Budget Questions provide a vehicle for the School Board to seek clarification and ask for additional information regarding the Combined Funds Budget and the 10-year CIP Budget. Given the time constraints, questions should focus on matters that are necessary for School Board members to make a decision about budget approval. Staff will keep a log of all questions and responses and will post them publicly on the ACPS website.

All questions concerning the FY 2020 proposed Combined Funds and 10-year CIP Budget must be submitted to the Superintendent by the deadlines shown on the calendar at the end of this document. Staff will post all responses by the deadlines noted, as is feasible based on the number and complexity of the questions.

II. Add/Delete and Budget Adjustment Process:

A. Overview:

The add/delete process provides a vehicle for the School Board to make changes to the Superintendent's proposed CIP and Combined Funds budgets. There are two iterations of the Add/Delete process:

- The first iteration (in December/January for CIP and February for Combined Funds) allows the School Board to approve adjustments to the Superintendent's Proposed Budgets, creating the Board's Approved Budgets which include the amounts of City funding requested for the Operating and CIP budgets.
- The second iteration (in May for both CIP and Combined Funds) follows the City Council's approval of the City's General Fund and CIP budgets which include the final appropriation amounts to ACPS. Based on these amounts, particularly if they are different than the requested City funding, the School Board will need to make changes to the Approved Budget, creating the School Board's Final Adopted Budget.

B. Add/Delete Requests:

Requests to make changes to the CIP and Combined Funds budgets should be submitted on a School Board Budget Proposal form which will be provided by staff. This form requires the following information:

- A brief description and justification of the request
- An estimate of the annual cost and multi-year dollar impact (if applicable) which will be validated by staff
- An explanation of how the change advances the School Board's strategic goals and a description of the programmatic impact of the proposed change
- A proposal of how to offset the proposed addition or use the cost savings from a proposed deletion

All requests to add expenditures to the CIP Budget must include an offsetting expenditure reduction, or a request to increase the City allocation. (Note that any request to increase the City allocation requires 2/3 majority vote for approval.)

All requests to add expenditures to the Combined Funds Budget must include an equivalent offset, in the form of additional revenue, expenditure reductions, or use of unassigned fund balance.

C. Co-Sponsorship

After all add/delete forms are received from the School Board Members, the items are posted for School Board review only. Each School Board Member then indicates his or her co-sponsorship of the items and this is tabulated by ACPS Staff. In addition to the original School Board member that proposes an add/delete item, all add/delete requests need a minimum of two co-sponsors to be considered with the Superintendent's recommended adjustments and to be prioritized for discussion at the add/delete work session. Any proposed addition or deletion that does not have this level of support will not be prioritized in the add/delete compilation but may still be discussed by the School Board. All add/delete proposals, even those without the required support, will be posted for public review, once the dollar and FTE impacts have been validated by staff.

D. Add/Delete Submission Process (First Round):

- The School Board must submit completed CIP add/delete forms to the Superintendent and Chief Operating Officer by end of day on December 11, 2018. Facilities staff will post all proposals and validate the reasonability of cost estimates by end of day on December 12, 2018.
- The School Board must submit completed Combined Funds add/delete forms to the Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer by end of day on February 5, 2019. Financial Services staff will post all proposals and validate cost estimates by end of day on February 7, 2019.

E. Superintendent Recommended Adjustments (First Round):

- The Superintendent will create a balanced list of recommended adjustments. This list may include School Board add/delete proposals as well as technical corrections that have been identified by staff during the review period. Any recommended adjustments and technical corrections will be submitted to the School Board in advance of the final add/delete work session.

F. Add/Delete Work Session (First Round) – First Meeting:

- Staff will present the Superintendent’s recommended adjustments to the School Board.
- The School Board will discuss these recommendations, and has the option to accept or reject them in total, or in part by accepting only specific line item recommendations. All technical corrections must be accepted.
- The School Board may opt to end the add/delete work session upon the acceptance of the Superintendent’s recommended adjustments in total or continue with a discussion of each add/delete proposal. If the Board elects to continue, all eligible proposals must be discussed and an indication of majority support shall be provided as demonstrated by the affirmative thumbs up.
- If continuing, staff will present the consolidated add/delete list where all additions and deletions will be reviewed and consensus determined for each proposal. Staff will track all decisions and keep tally of the budget impact based on the majority-supported adjustments.
- The add/delete work session ends after all eligible proposals have been discussed and the majority-supported adjustments still result in a balanced budget or 2/3 majority-support is indicated to increase the City appropriation request. A second meeting is scheduled in the event additional time is necessary in order to complete the process.
- The School Board may request further information on any proposed request.

G. Add/Delete Work Session (First Round) – Second Meeting:

- Staff will answer follow up questions from the first meeting.
- The School Board will continue its discussion from the first work session to complete the add/delete process as described above.

H. Follow-up Actions and Approved Budget Adoption (First Round):

- Staff will incorporate into the budget all proposed adjustments for which there is consensus, and issue the changes and the resolution to adopt the budget to the School Board in advance of the meeting at which the budget will be considered for approval.

I. Final Budget Adjustments and Add/Delete Submission Process (Second Round):

After the City Council approves their FY 2020 General Fund and CIP Budgets (in early May), the magnitude of required changes will be known. To address these changes:

- The Superintendent will create lists of recommended adjustments (including any technical corrections) to the School Board's Approved CIP and Combined Funds budgets, and submit these to the School Board in advance of the add/delete work session.
- School Board members will provide "yes/no" feedback on these recommended adjustments, and may also submit additional add/delete proposals at this time.
- School Board members must submit all "yes/no" feedback to the Superintendent's recommended adjustments and any additional add/delete proposals by noon on May 13, 2019 to the Superintendent, Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Operating Officer.
- After all add/delete forms are received from the School Board members, the co-sponsorship process will occur as outlined in Section II.C.
- Staff will consolidate all submissions to include the Superintendent's recommendations and all additional add/delete proposals and post on the website for public review by end of day on May 14, 2019.
- Note: When a School Board member supports a line item on the Superintendent's recommended adjustment list ("yes" feedback), it will also be displayed as that member's adjustment in the consolidated spreadsheet. All technical corrections must be accepted.

J. Add/Delete Work Session (Second Round) – First Meeting

- See instructions in Section II. F.

K. Add/Delete Work Session (Second Round) – Second Meeting

- See instructions in Section II. G.

L. Follow-up Actions and Final Budget Adoption (Second Round)

- See instructions in Section II.H.

Key Dates: As listed in the approved Budget Calendar posted on the ACPS Department of Financial Services website.

