

Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#761

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

My public comments are related to: *

Budget

Topic *

Teacher Pay & Mental Health Funding

Full Name *

Catherine Clinger

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Community Member

To Members of the School Board and Dr. Kay-Wyatt:

My name is Catherine Clinger and I am submitting these comments to you on behalf of the **City of Alexandria's Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission.**

In your continuing budget deliberations, we would urge you to do the following:

- 1) **Enact policies that will enable ACPS to hire and retain top-notch teachers and staff** through both step recovery and cost of living adjustments. We do not want to see veteran educators take what they've learned at ACPS and then use those hard-earned skills and knowledge in another district. We should give them every incentive to stay here in the City of Alexandria.

- 2) **Ensure that the budget includes sufficient funding for mental health positions.** We cannot afford to eliminate the positions previously financed through ESSER funding. ACHS students have testified before the Board to support increased mental health resources and personnel. Please fund these positions permanently. We have previously advocated for ongoing financial support both 1) to assess and identify unmet mental and behavioral health needs and 2) to develop, implement, and track progress on strategies to meet identified needs. If we eliminate mental health positions, we will be unable to meet current needs, much less identify and address unmet needs.

Again, thank you for your time and commitment to our children, youth and families.

Sincerely,

Catherine Clinger

Chair

Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission