

City of Alexandria, Virginia
MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 16, 2015
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
THROUGH: MARK B. JINKS, ACTING CITY MANAGER ~~m~~
FROM: NELSIE L. BIRCH, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET 
SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #5: ALTERNATIVE CITY APPROPRIATION CALCULATION OF ACPS FUNDING

This memorandum serves as a follow-up to a question posed by Councilman Lovain at the March 3, 2015 presentation on the Proposed FY 2016 budget regarding the City's proposed General Fund transfer to the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS).

Councilman Lovain requested staff to separate enrollment growth from non-enrollment growth in the ACPS budget request. Then, staff calculated the same level of growth as the FY 2016 City government budget, excluding the ACPS transfer, to the non-enrollment portion of the ACPS budget request. Staff has calculated the following:

1. City government growth, which excludes the ACPS operating transfer, is 1.1% over the City Council Approved FY 2015 Operating Budget.
2. ACPS staff provided City staff with their \$4.6M enrollment growth cost estimate for the 521 additional students projected for FY 2016.
3. Applying a 1.1% growth factor above City Council Approved FY 2015 funding, the non-enrollment base growth would equal \$2.2M.

The \$6.0M increase in the City Manager's Proposed Budget represents a 3.1% increase over FY 2015. If one sets aside \$4.6 million for enrollment increases that would leave non-enrollment expenditures increasing by 0.7%, or \$1.4M. Therefore, applying this alternative funding calculation, the operating transfer to ACPS, if a 1.1% growth factor was applied, would increase by \$0.8M more than the \$1.4M included in the City Manager's Proposed FY 2016 budget for a total of \$198.6M. Table 1 on the next page compares the total City operating transfer to ACPS from the City Manager's Proposed Budget to this alternative calculation of funding.

Table 1: Alternative Calculation of City Operating Transfer to ACPS

Expenditure Category	City Manager's Proposed FY 2016 Budget	Applying General Fund Growth of 1.1%
FY 2015 Approved City Appropriation to ACPS	\$191.8M	\$191.8M
ACPS Projected Enrollment Growth	\$4.6M	\$4.6M
Non-Enrollment Growth	\$1.4M	\$2.2M
FY 2016 Total Proposed City Appropriation to ACPS	\$197.8M	\$198.6M
Difference: 1.1% Growth – City Manager's Proposed		\$0.8M

cc: Dr. Alvin Crawley, Superintendent, Alexandria City Public Schools
 Stacey Johnson, CFO, Alexandria City Public Schools
 Laura Triggs, Deputy City Manager
 Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager
 Chris Bever, Assistant Budget Director