

Richmond Public School Board Community Budget Questionnaire Results Summary

1. Do you believe RPS currently receives enough funding to carry out its mission?

Number of persons who answered question: 77

Number of persons who skipped question: 3

Percent Yes: 5.19% (4 answered yes)

Percent No: 94.80% (73 answered no)

2. Is the current level of funding received by the State and City appropriate?

Number of persons who answered question: 77

Number of persons who skipped question: 3

Percent Yes for State: 6.49% (5 answered yes)

Percent No for State: 74.0% (57 answered no)

Percent Yes for City: 1.29% (1 answered yes)

Percent No for City: 94.80% (73 answered no)

3. What percentage of the City's total budget do you believe is appropriate to fund schools?

Number of persons who answered question: 70

Number of persons who skipped question: 10

Percent who chose 40%: 28.57% (20 chose 40%)

Percent who chose 30%: 30% (21 chose 30%)

Percent who chose 25%: 21.42% (15 chose 25%)

Percent who chose 15%: 4.28% (3 chose 15%)

Percent who chose none of the above: 15.7% (11 chose none of the above)

4. Was the presentation informative?

Number of persons who answered question: 60

Number of persons who skipped question: 20

Percent Yes: 95% (57 answered yes)

Percent No: 1.66% (1 answered no)

Percent somewhat: 25% (15 answered somewhat)

5. Your RPS relationship is:

Number of persons who answered question: 77

Number of persons who skipped question: 3

Student/Parent/Guardian: 50.64% (39 persons answered)

RPS Employee: 25.97% (20 persons answered)

Concerned Citizen: 33.76% (26 persons answered)

Richmond City Resident: 72.72% (56 persons answered)

Non City Resident: 16.88% (13 persons answered)

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

In 2011, a Strategic Planning Team of community businesses, education and nonprofit leaders developed the RPS 2010-2015 Strategic Plan. Depending on City Council's funding decision, RPS may have to balance its budget by delaying or discontinuing all or some of these strategic initiatives. Please indicate your view of the importance of each of the following strategic initiatives by numbering them 1 (most important) to 8 (least important).

Priority	Strategic Initiative
	Middle School Renaissance (after-school academic, arts and sports programs for all middle schools)
	Expansion of Charter School options
	Comprehensive data dashboard to better analyze student and employee data
	Creation of Virtual Learning Models
	New Performance Evaluation System (to better correlate teaching with student outcomes)
	Enhanced and increased student athletics (new equipment, new athletic offerings, updated playing fields)
	Expansion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
	Extended day and calendar

Results:

- 38.36% of respondents prioritized the Expansion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics as being the most important followed by the continuation of Middle School Renaissance.
- Over 43% of respondents felt the expansion of Charter School options was the least important, followed by extended day and calendar with 15%.

COST-CUTTING MEASURES

The RPS School Board has recommended to City Council a 2012-13 Budget that (a) sustains prior year programs and support systems and (b) requests funding to offset Federal/State/Local revenue declines and employee benefit costs increases. Depending on City Council funding decisions, RPS could be required to reduce its budget and related service levels.

Priority	Instructional Programs/Support
	Please indicate which of the following instructional programs you would reduce/eliminate as a cost-cutting measure, in order of priority, from 1 (the first to be reduced/eliminated) to 5 (the last to be reduced/eliminated).
	Eliminate Elementary Foreign Language
	Reduce/eliminate Field Trips
	Reduce/eliminate IB Programs
	Reduce/eliminate VPI (Virginia Preschool Initiative)
	Reduce/eliminate Summer School (general fund support)

Results:

- Number of persons who answered question: 47
Number of persons who skipped question: 6
- 35.6% of 47 respondents prioritized Summer School as one of the first instructional programs/support to be reduced/eliminated, followed by the elimination of Foreign Language with 26.2% and the reduction/elimination of Field trips with 22.7%.

Cost-Cutting Measures - Instructional Programs/Support

	1	2	3	4	5	Rating Average	Response Count
Eliminate Foreign Language	26.2% (11)	19.0% (8)	11.9% (5)	21.4% (9)	21.4% (9)	2.93	42
Reduce/eliminate Field Trips	22.7% (10)	36.4% (16)	20.5% (9)	13.6% (6)	6.8% (3)	2.45	44
Reduce/eliminate IB Programs	9.8% (4)	7.3% (3)	24.4% (10)	31.7% (13)	26.8% (11)	3.59	41
Reduce/eliminate VPI	7.9% (3)	15.8% (6)	21.1% (8)	10.5% (4)	44.7% (17)	3.68	38
Reduce/eliminate Summer School	35.6% (16)	17.8% (8)	22.2% (10)	20.0% (9)	4.4% (2)	2.40	45

Priority	Instructional Quality
	Please indicate which of the following you would initiate as a cost-cutting measure, in order of priority, from 1 (the first to be put into effect) to 8 (the last to be put into effect).
	Class Size Increases (138 teachers)
	Reduction in Force (100 positions)
	Administrative/Non-Classroom (8-12 positions)
	Instructional Aides (80 positions)
	Custodians (49 positions)
	Security (13 positions)
	Reduce Staff Development
	Reduce Regional/Local Program Support

Results:

- Number of persons who answered question: 46
Number of persons who skipped question: 7
- 37.2% of 46 respondents prioritized administration/non-classroom positions as one of the first cuts in the instructional quality category followed by a reduction in regional/local program support with 26.8% and a reduction in staff development at 17.8%.
- 53.7% of respondents indicated an increase in class sizes should be the last cost-cutting measure in this category.

Cost-Cutting Measures - Instructional Quality

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Rating Avera ge	Respon se Count
Class Size Increases	2.4% (1)	0.0% (0)	2.4% (1)	2.4% (1)	4.9% (2)	14.6 % (6)	19.5 % (8)	53.7 % (22)	6.98	41
Reduction in Force	2.5% (1)	7.5% (3)	2.5% (1)	12.5 % (5)	17.5 % (7)	2.5% (1)	30.0 % (12)	25.0 % (10)	5.88	40
Administrative/ Non-Classroom	37.2 % (16)	11.6 % (5)	14.0 % (6)	11.6 % (5)	16.3 % (7)	0.0% (0)	9.3% (4)	0.0% (0)	2.95	43
Instructional Aides	4.9% (2)	7.3% (3)	9.8% (4)	4.9% (2)	12.2 % (5)	39.0 % (16)	14.6 % (6)	7.3% (3)	5.24	41
Custodians	4.8% (2)	23.8 % (10)	9.5% (4)	31.0 % (13)	16.7 % (7)	11.9 % (5)	0.0% (0)	2.4% (1)	3.79	42
Administrative/ Security	7.5% (3)	12.5 % (5)	27.5 % (11)	17.5 % (7)	10.0 % (4)	12.5 % (5)	7.5% (3)	5.0% (2)	4.03	40
Reduce Staff Development	17.8 % (8)	13.3 % (6)	13.3 % (6)	15.6 % (7)	8.9% (4)	13.3 % (6)	17.8 % (8)	0.0% (0)	3.96	45
Reduce Regional/Local Program Support	26.8 % (11)	26.8 % (11)	19.5 % (8)	2.4% (1)	9.8% (4)	4.9% (2)	2.4% (1)	7.3% (3)	3.02	41

Section

Region
Local
Program
Support

Priority	Employee Health & Benefits Please indicate which of the following you would change as a cost-cutting measure, in order of priority, from 1 (the first to be changed) to 6 (the last to be changed).
	Contract Lengths (AP's to 10; Guidance and librarians to 9.5)
	Health Insurance (pay employee-only rate for qualified participants)
	Health Insurance (eliminate employer contribution for retirees)
	Dental (eliminate employer paid share)
	VRS (all new hires pay 5% employee share)
	3-Day Furlough

Results:

- Number of persons who answered question: 44
Number of persons who skipped question: 9
- 35.9% of 44 respondents prioritized changing contract lengths as one of the first cost-cutting measures in the employee health & benefits category, followed by the 3-day furlough with 26.3 %.

Cost-Cutting - Employee Health & Benefits								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Rating Average	Response Count
Contract Lengths	35.9% (14)	20.5% (8)	5.1% (2)	5.1% (2)	7.7% (3)	25.6% (10)	3.05	39
Health Insurance (pay employee only rate)	0.0% (0)	5.1% (2)	23.1% (9)	23.1% (9)	33.3% (13)	15.4% (6)	4.31	39
Health Insurance (eliminate employer contribution for retirees)	15.0% (6)	22.5% (9)	7.5% (3)	15.0% (6)	17.5% (7)	22.5% (9)	3.65	40
Dental (pay employer share)	2.7% (1)	13.5% (5)	16.2% (6)	29.7% (11)	27.0% (10)	10.8% (4)	3.97	37
VRS	24.3% (9)	10.8% (4)	27.0% (10)	18.9% (7)	8.1% (3)	10.8% (4)	3.08	37
3-Day Furlough	26.3% (10)	23.7% (9)	15.8% (6)	2.6% (1)	7.9% (3)	23.7% (9)	3.13	38