

DPS

2009-10 Board of Education's **Budget Proposal**



Our community's investment in the future



Board of Education's Budget Proposal

May 2009

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Note: DPS has over 80 grant type funds that flow through our school district. We have included in the PRC pages those that are most material to the overall operations of the school district; the other grants are usually very specific and may be directed to individual schools, teachers, etc. The overall funding in this area is estimated annually at just over \$2 million.

Budget ResolutionTBD

2009-10 Budget Message

*Carl E. Harris, Ed.D.
Superintendent*

*Minnie Forte-Brown, Chair
Board of Education*

The coming year will be the most challenging budget year in the history of Durham Public Schools (DPS). In the face of difficult times, we are seeing wonderful things happening in our system. Among them:

- The opening of two new schools – Spring Valley Elementary and the City of Medicine Academy.
- The number of DPS students dropping out of school took a nosedive during the 2007-08 academic year, the system's largest decrease in seven years. DPS now has one of the top five three-year changes in dropout counts among North Carolina's 115 school systems.
- For the 2007-08 school year, a record number of schools made High Growth since the new ABCs model was introduced three years earlier. More than half of DPS elementary schools reported High Growth in 2007-08. More than half of middle schools (five of nine) reported either Expected or High Growth in 2007-08.
- The average SAT score of the top 10 percent of SAT scores among DPS seniors in 2008 was higher than the average of their state and national counterparts.
- Four high schools – Jordan, Riverside, Northern and Durham School of the Arts -- were ranked in the top 1,000 academically rigorous high schools by Newsweek magazine in fall 2008.

In the midst of these accomplishments, we are keenly aware of and greatly appreciate the very difficult decisions our Board of Education and County Commissioners must make as they plan for the new budget year. This budget recommendation reflects an especially thoughtful and deliberate planning process by our administration and our Budget Committee, which comprised teachers, parents and business leaders who care deeply about schools and students.

This document reflects reductions that were made only after careful consideration of keeping classroom resources and support at the highest level possible. We know that our Board of Education and County Commissioners share our concerns, and we continue to appreciate your ongoing support.

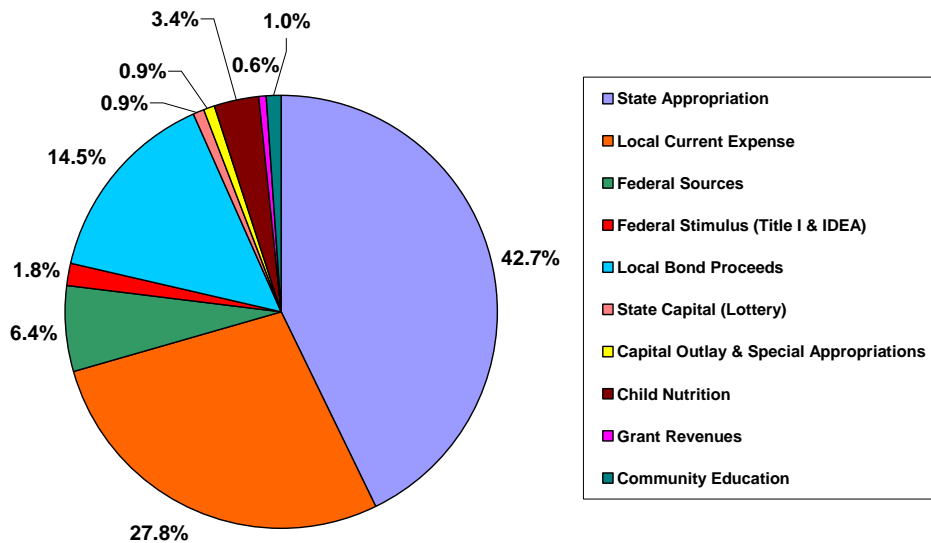
Executive Summary

The 2009-10 budget request focuses on a continuation of Durham Public Schools' current operation and programs. In light of the current economic situation the Board of Education has balanced the district's continuation and expansion needs with targeted and thoughtful local fund reductions totaling \$3.5 million (3.4%) so the net request of new county appropriation funds reflects an increase required in county appropriation of \$1,450,412 or a total county appropriation excluding capital outlay of \$104,179,151.

The total proposed budget for the 2009-10 school year is presented at \$403.3 million which reflects a net reduction of \$16.2 million (4.9%) of operating resources for the district. Of the total revenues, approximately 27.8 percent, or \$112.0 million comprises local current expense. Capital Outlay is presented at the original FY 2008-09 level of \$2,370,000. State resources reflect a decrease in funding of 6.8% or \$12.7 million based on the Senate's budget proposal. We have also reflected the anticipated federal stimulus funds for the district for FY 2009-10 from Title I and IDEA-VI-B funds at \$7,250,000 (*supplemental information presented on pages 7 and 8 related to federal stimulus funding*).

Funding Sources

State appropriation.....	\$172,241,381
Local current expense	112,017,151
Federal sources	25,821,591
Federal stimulus.....	7,250,000
Capital Projects – Local Bond funds.....	58,564,136
Capital Projects – State Capital (Lottery)	3,739,114
Capital outlay and Special Capital Appropriations	3,511,779
Child Nutrition.....	13,601,692
Grant revenues	2,300,000
Community Education	4,229,790
	\$403,276,634



Local Funds Revenues– FY 2009-10

DPS’s overall funding request is to maintain the current county appropriation. In addition to the county appropriation, Durham Public Schools will receive approximately \$5.7 million from several other sources. Of these other funds, it should be noted that the charter schools that operate in Durham County also receive their equal per-pupil portion from the Fines & Forfeiture funds that come to DPS through other local sources. DPS will also need to allocate funds from our fund balance of \$2.0 million to cover existing operations. The chart below reflects the revenue currently budgeted for local funds.

County Appropriation - DPS.....	94.9 million	84.7%
County Appropriation – Charter Schools.....	9.3 million	8.3%
Other local Sources	2.7 million	2.4%
<i>(Fines, forfeiture, grants, interest)</i>		
Fund Balance appropriated	2.0 million	1.8%
Federal sources – <i>Indirect cost, E-rate, Medicaid, other</i>	3.2 million	2.9%
Total Local Current Expense	\$ 112.0 million	100%
County Appropriation – Capital	2.3 million	
Total Local Current Expense +		
County Appropriation Capital.....	\$ 114.3 million	

This represents an increase in required in county appropriation of \$1,450,412 or a total county appropriation excluding capital outlay of \$104.2 million (excluding capital outlay). Capital outlay funding is reflected at the current funding level of \$2,370,000. The total local revenue above also includes continuation budget requirements of \$4.9 million or a 4.8% increase in the budget to maintain current services. These continuing requirements are detailed beginning on page 10.

Summary of Budget Reductions to Balance Revenue Reductions

To ensure a balanced budget and in light of the economic pressures all are facing for the coming fiscal year this budget also reflects targeted and thoughtful reductions to offset the need for any additional county appropriation for FY 2009-10. This includes absorbing the funds required as pass-thru for the charter schools as well as the continuation and supplemental requirements and the projected state budget reductions. The following actions have been taken:

- Elimination of central service support positions (\$2 million – 40 positions).
- Elimination of classroom support positions for the schools (\$1.1 million – 22 positions).
- Reduction of local funds for staff development activities (\$0.3 million).
- Reduction of local supply and material funds (\$60,000).
- Increased student-teacher ratios at the schools (\$4.1 million – 80 positions)
- Reduced classroom support to match student enrollment (\$4.9 million – 98 positions)
- Reduced teacher assistant positions (\$1.9 million – 69 positions)
- Redirected new in FY 2008-09 Exceptional Children support positions to IDEA federal stimulus funds (\$1.5 million – 30 positions)

The above reflects an overall reduction in staff from the local and state budgets of at least 339 positions and budget reductions of non-salary funds of at least \$0.4 million to date. This equates to a \$16.2 million reduction in the DPS for FY 2009-10 or a net 4.9% decrease of available operating funds from state and local resources.

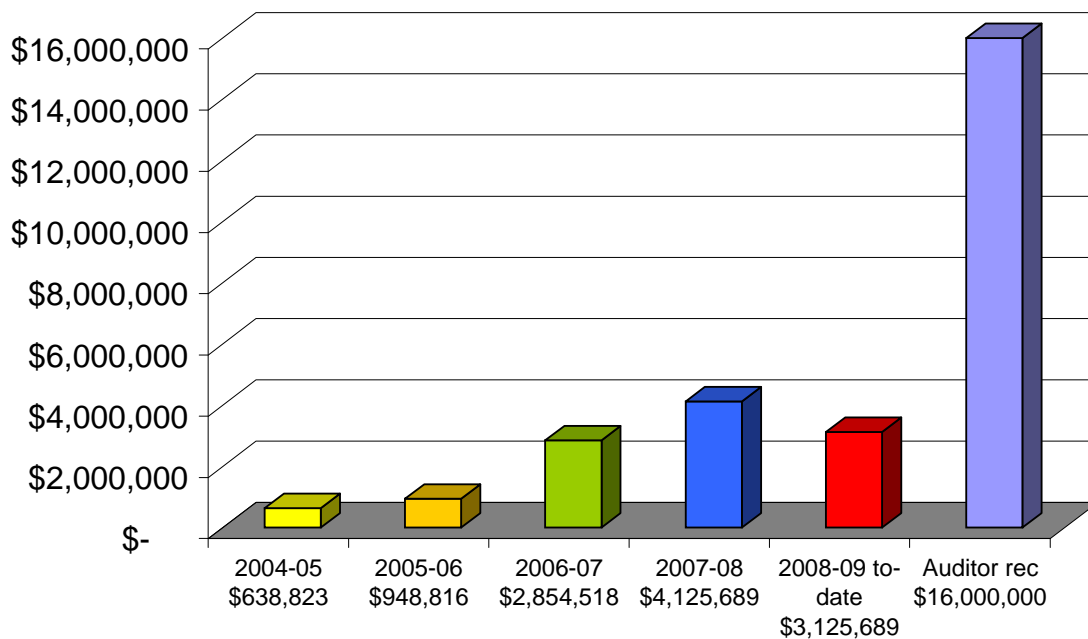
The next section will provide more detailed information related to the state budget outlook and reductions, student growth for the county and our local continuation requirements.

Fiscal Climate – Economic Recession

The state of North Carolina is sharing in the rapidly declining economic situation that is gripping the nation. Our current school year continues to be one in which we are striving to achieve higher academic goals within ever-decreasing resources. The Governor has been forced to make serious cuts in the state budget for the current fiscal year as well as redirecting trust funds, lottery funds for capital and other sources to ensure positive cash balances for the state. For Durham Public Schools (DPS) this has meant a reduction of \$1.3 million state operating funds and the loss of \$1million in lottery funds. We also had to return \$1 million to cover the student projections not meeting the state target (50% of the total impact). To balance these state reductions during the current fiscal year we have appropriated additional fund balance of \$1 million, cut non-school budgets by 10% and have frozen all positions, filling only those critical to the direct support of schools and students.

We received communications from the state dated April 13, 2009 and May 4, 2009 which effectively froze all remaining state fund balances and pulled back an additional \$1 million of state funding. We are attempting to reconcile what this latest state funding cut could mean for the district for the remainder of this fiscal year and its impact on our local budget and remaining fund balance. As shown on the chart below with our low fund balance, which is less than 1% of our operating expenditures, DPS has few funds to draw upon for these sudden reductions of critical resources.

DPS UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE



The budget outlook for FY 2009-10 looks much worse with the General Assembly facing a deficit of more than \$3 billion in funding. The Senate's recently approved budget reflects the impact this deficit will have on K-12 education with a budget reduction of more than 6%, despite the application of federal stabilization funds provided to the state. Without the federal stabilization funds the potential budget reduction for our schools would be catastrophic. The federal funds should help us at least maintain core services. The Senate has recommended an increase in classroom student-teacher ratio by 2, which, for DPS equates to an estimated reduction of 162 teacher positions. The Senate budget also removes funding for remediation efforts, reduces textbook funds, and puts a hold on ABC teacher bonuses. There are no raises for state employees and only an experience step increase for teachers and principals. In addition, a separate bill (Senate Bill 287) dealing with the state health plan currently has the employer hospitalization increase at 10% or \$415 per employee.

In anticipation of the current projected state funds reduction for FY 2009-10 of \$12.7 million (6.9%) the Board of Education has taken the following steps to reduce positions (289) and budget:

- Increased student-teacher ratios at the schools (\$4.1 million – 80 positions)
- Reduced classroom support to match student enrollment (\$4.9 million – 98 positions)
- Reduced teacher assistant positions (\$2.2 million –81 positions) – 12 of these positions are being redirected to local funds for a net reduction of 69 teacher assistants or \$1.9 million.
- Redirected new in FY 2008-09 Exceptional Children support positions to IDEA federal stimulus funds (\$1.5 million – 30 positions)

The majority of the school level reduction will be in classroom support areas and not core instructional programs. We do, however, anticipate larger class sizes and fewer enhancement offerings for our schools due to these budget reductions. We hope to restore school positions as funds become available while we continue to reduce other budget areas such as central services, supplies, and staff development resources.

Federal Stimulus Funds

News reports have anticipated that the new federal stimulus funds coming to the school districts will enable school districts to save teachers and other staff positions. The funds, however, have many restrictions and are not equivalent to the total funds being cut to completely offset any potential staff reductions. The current federal guidance related to the stimulus funds keep the supplant requirements, maintenance of effort, comparability ratios, time and effort, and restricted set-asides. The supplanting language is the greatest hurdle since that restricts the ability to transfer personnel currently paid from another fund into these new federal funds. All federal funding must also be made available to Private Schools that wish to participate and are eligible for the funds. The meeting related to this is in May 2009 and we do not know the impact that may have on funding availability. Overall the inherent grant restrictions will diminish the ability of the district to offset many current positions with these funds. The funding is also one-time funding that must be spent within a restricted time frame. Using this non-recurring funding source for positions would only delay action to eventually reduce those positions unless new revenues develop that can sustain them beyond the 2 years of funding availability.

The primary objectives per the federal government related to the use of these funds are:

- Making progress toward rigorous college and career-ready standards, including ESL students and Exceptional Children.
- Establishing Pre-K to college through career longitudinal data systems.
- Improvement of teacher effectiveness and equitable distribution of teachers especially in at-risk schools.
- Providing intensive support and interventions for the lowest performing schools.

In addition there are very detailed reporting requirements on the use of these funds. There is an emphasis on the lowest performing schools and differentiated resources and programs made available to those schools. School-by-school comparability reports detailing how resources and staff are being used and the effectiveness of those resources and staff will be required.

All of the federal guidance is posted on the Department of Education's recovery Website: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html>

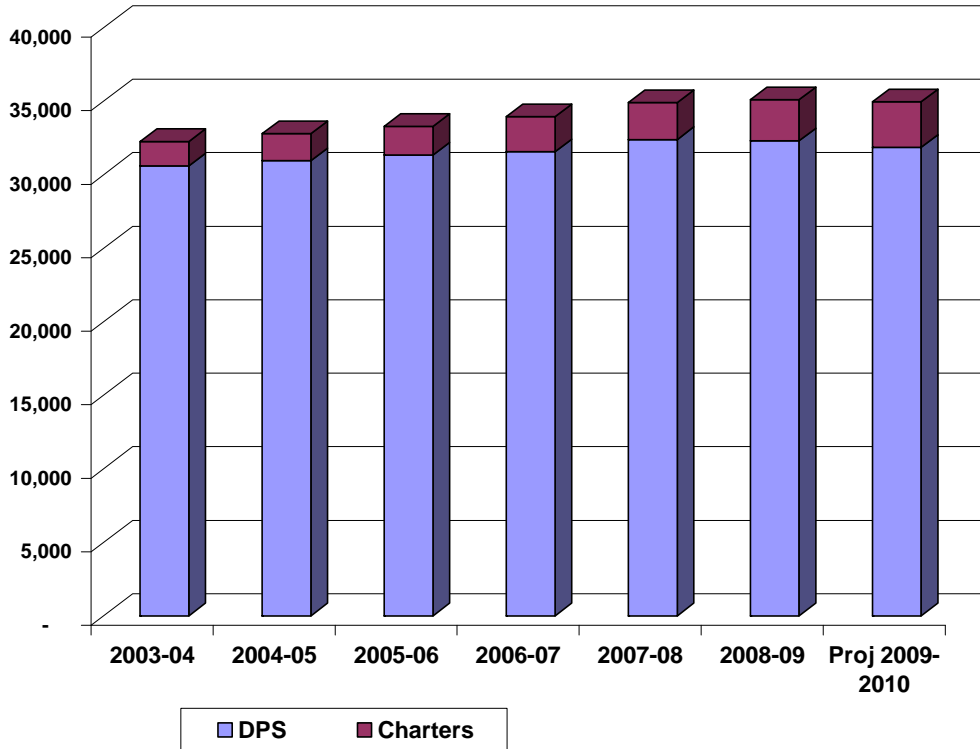
Below is a table to illustrate our current expectations from the 2 primary portions of funds coming through Title I and IDEA:

	IDEA -VI-B (Exceptional Children)	Title I (Elementary Schools over 40% F&R)
Federal Stimulus Revenue Estimate	3,650,000	3,600,000
<u>Mandated Set-asides:</u>		
Early Intervening Services (15%)	547,500	
Parental Involvement (1%)		36,000
Effective Teacher Staff Development (5%)		180,000
LEA Improvement (20%)		720,000
Indirect Cost (5.572%)	203,378	200,592
subtotal set-asides	750,878	1,136,592
Stimulus Funds	2,899,122	2,463,408
Local Funds offset allowed for Maintenance of Effort	(268,785)	
Redirected 30 EC support positions (state reduction)	(1,500,000)	
Funds required to hold Title I schools at current Title I staffing		(1,751,192)
New funds available for grant activities *	1,130,337	712,216

**Prior to any reduction of available funds pending private school eligibility and acceptance*

We will complete our plans for the use of the stimulus funds when we have more definitive information related to planning budget amounts. Once NCDPI approves our plan and provides us with the coding for the funds (the funds should have separate program report codes since they have separate federal CFDA numbers) we will include them in the program section of the budget book. The federal stimulus funds require transparency and as such we will be posting the plans and making them available once approved by NCDPI.

Durham County Student Growth – Average Daily Membership (ADM)



The State Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) is projecting a reduction in ADM (average daily membership) of 395 students for FY 09-10 for DPS. The primary reason for the decrease is that effective for FY 2009-10 the Legislature changed the kindergarten entry date from October to August so there will be a statewide decrease in kindergarten enrollment. NCDPI is projecting another increase in Charter School enrollment of about 459 students or 11% which is about the average increase since 2003. With this projection charter school students will make up 8.9% of total Durham County students in FY 2009-10. The chart below summarizes this change in students:

	DPS	Charter Schls	Net County Funded Students
Current County Funded Enrollment FY 2008-09	32,925	2,516	35,441
Projection FY 09-10 for Durham Cnty based on NCDPI for ADM	31,867	3,110	34,977
Net Enrollment Growth Total	(1,058)	594	(464)

It should be noted that in FY 2008-09 DPS reverted \$3.1 million to the county and reverted \$2.3 million to the state for a total current year reversion to-date of \$5.4 million.

We are also seeing the economy having an impact on other sectors of our student population. Our principals, for example, are reporting an increase in registrations of children from private schools that could impact our projections for FY 2009-10. We realized only 4% growth in LEP students in FY 2008-09 which has averaged 15% growth since 2000. Our LEP population is 14.6% of the total DPS student population, and as of April 1, 2009 it totals 4,712. This continues to be above the state cap for LEP funding of 10.6%. We are projecting our LEP population to remain at relatively the same level for FY 2009-10 based on the current economic forecasts.

Continuation Funding Requirements

Our incremental local continuation budget requirement for Durham Public Schools is \$4,981,708 which is a 4.8% increase to maintain current staff and services. The table on page 12 summarizes the required budgetary increases in local funding for the fiscal year 2009-10. The table on page 14 details how our current local funds are being allocated. The highlights of our base budget requirements to sustain our current level of operations are as follows:

- a) Inflationary impact funding of \$1,389,106 to help offset annual cost increases for classroom supplies and materials, utilities, etc. for Consumers Price Index (CPI) of 3.8% (*Dept of Labor – Dec 2008*).
- b) Operational costs (utilities, maintenance, janitorial) for new square footage (52,642 sq ft) coming on-line in FY 09-10 of \$261,689. This includes the costs for Fayetteville Street, CC Spaulding, Morehead, Mangum, Hillside New Tech High School, and several trailers.
- c) DPS's portion for the operational costs for the Holton Career & Resource Center is projected at \$355,692. *This does not include the instructional supplies and materials. We are planning to use state and federal resources for those purchases however; with the recent state budget freeze that funding source is currently unreliable.*
- d) Salary requirements for the continuation of current staff totals \$2,490,222. This is based on current staff and the anticipated salary increases from the state. This breaks down as follows:
 - The legislated increase for our locally paid instructional certified staff is expected to cost \$382,264. This is an average increase of 2% for the legislated years experience step.
 - The local teacher supplement increase is anticipated to cost \$345,315 as a result of the legislated salary increase since our supplement is a percentage of the base salary for these instructional certified employees.
 - Classified staff is expected to cost local resources \$841,725 for the local experience step increase, which averages 1.5%.
 - There is currently projected to be a 10% increase required for employer's hospitalization increasing that cost from \$4,157 to \$4,572 per employee for a total cost of \$445,295 for local staff.
 - The other portion of the salary increase is related to the impact on FICA, Retirement rate (currently increasing 0.5%) and longevity which is a percent of salary. This benefits portion is an increase of \$475,623.
- e) Reinstate the loss of state funding for the ENCORE! Middle School After school program of \$185,000 to ensure the program can be maintained at the FY 08-09 level of service.
- f) Reinstate 12 teacher assistants, \$300,000 due to reduction of state resources to try and maintain support for our elementary students.

Budget Reductions to Offset Budget Requirements:

In light of the economic pressures all are facing for the coming fiscal year this budget also reflects targeted and thoughtful reductions of \$3.5 million or 3.4% to our local fund budget to offset the need for any additional county appropriation for FY 2009-10. This includes absorbing the funds required as pass-thru for the charter schools as well as the continuation and supplemental requirements as outlined above. The following actions have been taken to balance the local budget requirements:

- Elimination of at least 40 central service support positions (\$2.0 million).
- Elimination of 22 classroom support positions for the schools (\$1.1 million).
- Reduction of local funds for staff development activities (\$0.3 million).
- Reduction of local supply and material funds (\$60,000).

These bring the total DPS budget requirement for county appropriation to reflect an increase in funding required of \$1,450,412. DPS is requesting total county appropriation of \$104,179,151 excluding capital outlay so that we can maintain our core instructional services for our students. Any further reduction of local resources on top of the state reduction in funding will result in more cuts to our schools and will impact classroom instruction for our students.

Summary FY 2009-10 Budget

The above reflects an overall reduction in staff from the local and state budgets of at least 339 positions and budget reductions of non-salary funds of at least \$0.4 million to date. This equates to a \$16.2 million reduction in the DPS for FY 2009-10 or a net 4.9% decrease of available operating funds from state and local resources.

Our request for County Appropriation for operations is \$104,179,151. This is an increase in funds of \$1,450,412. Our request for County Appropriation for capital outlay is \$2,370,000. The total requested county appropriation for FY 2009-10 is \$106,549,151.

A relatively high percentage of DPS students qualify for free and reduced meals. More than half of our students meet the requirements to do so. We employ a differentiated strategy for funding and staffing levels in our schools in order to meet the needs of those schools serving the most at-risk youth. This strategy happens to be one emphasis of the new federal stimulus funding. Despite the budget reductions to staff detailed above our student-teacher ratio for base classroom teachers is 1:20.4 which remains lower than the state average. This is largely due to the continued local funding support we receive from the county along with purposeful directing of those resources into our classrooms.

We continue to turn a critical eye towards our programs and resources while employing new and innovative programs to engage our most at-risk youth and provide them the tools and opportunities they will need to be successful. Our Evening and Saturday Academy programs are providing a clear indication that we can help our students be engaged learners and graduate. At the same time DPS is implementing programs that address the needs of our most accelerated learners so that all of our students can achieve at their full potential. It is crucial that we have the resources necessary to offset the coming economic challenges while continuing to meet our students' needs in offering high-quality instructional programs.

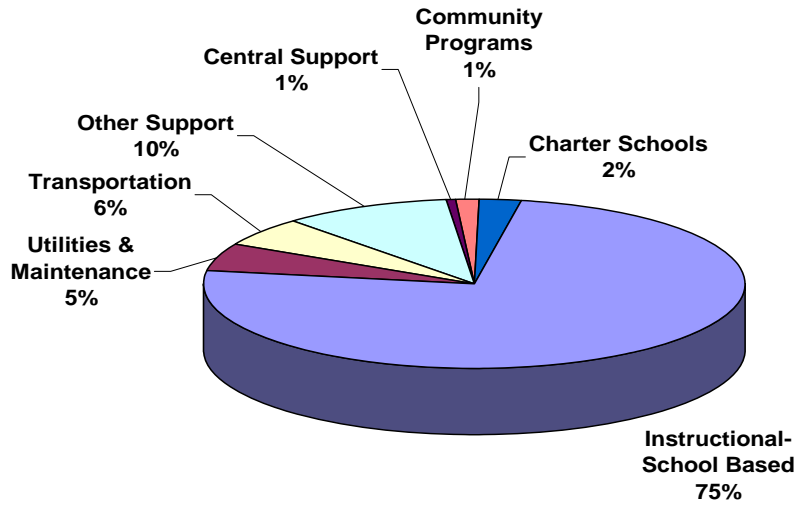
With drastically diminishing resources, we will stay focused on maintaining our core instructional programs, increasing efficiencies, automating processes and tailoring instructional interventions and acceleration programs based on individual student educational plans. We remain committed to supporting our local teacher supplement for certified staff, maintaining low class-size ratios, especially in the most at-risk schools, and ensuring that choice and magnet programs remain intact to keep students and families engaged in learning. We are committed to maintaining instructional programs for students without negatively impacting required support for schools and staff. The support of our parents, community, business partners, the Durham County Commissioners and others will be crucial as we weather these difficult economic times.

Board of Education's Budget Requirements-Fiscal Year 2009-10

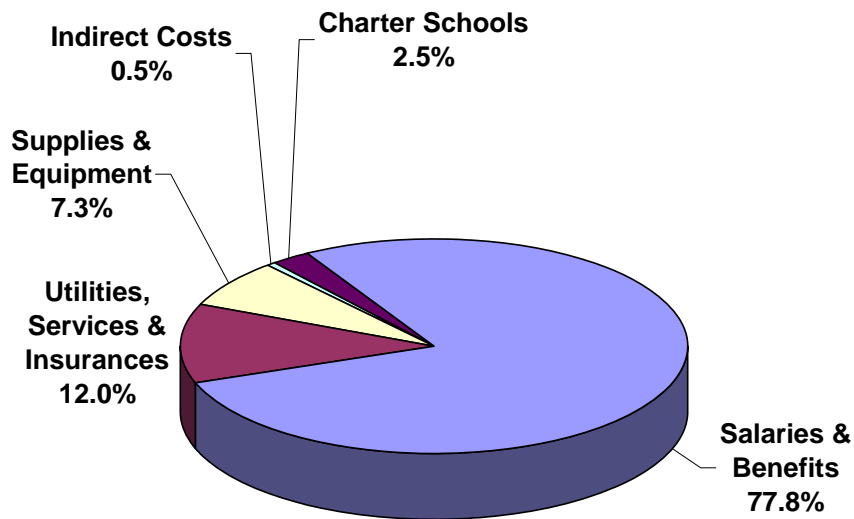
Category	Funding Requests	Subtotals by Group	% Inc of Ttl Local funds
Continuation Budget Requirements			
Operational Costs			
Inflationary/Cost Increases <i>(based on 3.8% CPI inc for 2008)</i> required for Utilities, Natural Gas, Fuel, and Classroom Supplies & Equipment	\$ 1,389,106		1.4%
Operational Costs for New Square Footage coming On-Line	\$ 261,689		0.3%
Holton Career and Resource Center - DPS portion of operations	\$ 355,692		0.3%
Subtotal Operations Requirement		\$ 2,006,486	
Salary and Benefits			
State Mandated Experience Step avg 2% for step)	\$ 382,264		0.4%
Supplement Increase for Existing scale based on State raise for Instructional Certified Staff	\$ 345,315		0.3%
Local experience step for classified staff (1.5% est avg increase local step)	\$ 841,725		0.8%
Hospitalization Increase - Employer Cost 10% from \$4,157 to \$4,572 per employee)	\$ 445,295		0.4%
State Employee Benefit Impact per Governor (FICA, Retirement, Longevity impact)	\$ 475,623		0.5%
Subtotal Salary and Benefit Requirement		\$ 2,490,222	2.4%
Subtotal Net Continuation Funding Requirements		\$ 4,496,708	4.4%
Supplemental Funding Requirements			
Funds to ensure ENCORE! Middle School After School program remains at current FY 08-09 levels due to proposed elimination of "SOS" funding from the state	\$ 185,000		
Reinstate 12 Teacher Assistant positions reduced due to state budget reductions	\$ 300,000		
Net Total Supplemental Requests		\$ 485,000	0.5%
Total Local Budget Requirements FY 2009-10		\$ 4,981,708	4.8%
DPS Budget Reductions			
Reduction of 40 Central Services support positions	\$ (2,000,000)		
Reduction of 22 classroom support positions	\$ (1,105,000)		
Reduction of local staff development funding	\$ (366,296)		
Reduction of local supplies and materials funding	\$ (60,000)		
Net Total DPS Budget Reductions		\$ (3,531,296)	-3.4%
Net Total Budget Request - County Appropriation		\$ 1,450,412	1.4%

Use of Funds – FY 2008-09 Budget

The majority of our funds are used for instructional purposes at our schools and in the classroom. The chart below reflects the use of all non-capital resources by area received by the district.



Of these funds, over 77% are utilized for Salaries and Benefits and over 84% of all State and Federal funds received are allocated towards personnel. The chart below reflects the use of all non-capital resources by type.



Local Use of Funds – by primary program areas (Projected FY 09-10)

Local Teachers Salaries.....	28.4 million	25.4%
Teacher Assistants.....	0.3 million	0.3%
Exceptional Children's Program	4.8 million	4.3%
· Salaries & Benefits	4.6 M	
· Services and Materials, etc.	.2	
Pupil Support (guidance, counseling, etc.)	8.0 million	7.2%
· Salaries & Benefits	5.6 M	
· Services and Materials, etc	2.4	
Instructional Supplies & Materials.....	4.5 million	4.0%
· Textbooks	0.6M	
· Other Instructional Supplies	3.9	
Career & Technical Education	1.1million	1.0%
· Salaries & Benefits	1.1M	
· Services and Materials, etc	.0	
Magnet Schools.....	0.9 million	0.8%
· Salaries & Benefits	.2 M	
· Services and Materials, etc	.7	
Remediation/Alternative Programs.....	1.1 million	1.0%
· Salaries & Benefits	.7 M	
· Services and Materials, etc.	.4	
Operational Costs	37.8 million	34.4%
· Substitutes	0.3	
· Athletics	0.8	
· School Clerical	3.9	
· Technical Support	1.4	
· Insurance	2.1	
· Utilities	9.0	
· Custodians	6.5	
· Maintenance Employees	4.0	
· Supplies/Materials	2.8	
· Services	3.4	
· Benefits	3.6	
School Building Administration	6.5 million	5.9%
· Salaries & Benefits	5.2 M	
· Services and Materials, etc	1.3	
Transportation	4.6 million	4.2%
· Salaries & Benefits	3.6M	
· Services and Materials, etc	1.0	
Charter Schools*	9.3 million	8.3%
Other Benefits	1.5 million	1.4%
Central Services	3.0 million	2.7%
Total Local Current Expense	\$112.0 million	
Capital Outlay	2.3 million	
Total Local Current Expense + Capital Outlay	\$114.3 million	

* Charter schools funds flow through the local education agency (LEA) county appropriation per state legislation.

Our Personnel Commitment to our Students

Projected Staffing FTE - FY 2009-10

Category	Local	State	Federal	Grants Other	Totals	% of Total
Teachers	315.7	1,421.8	108.2		1,845.7	41%
Teacher Assistants	18.3	289.9	8.5		316.7	7%
Pupil Support <i>Includes Guidance, Media, Tech support, other instructional support</i>	145.9	135.1	43.5	39.3	363.8	8%
Exceptional Children's Programs	99.0	458.2	122.2		679.4	15%
Career and Technical Education	2.0	128.0			130.0	3%
Operational /Other Support <i>Includes school clerical, custodians, maintenance , technology support, etc.</i>	221.2	250.4	0.1	7.6	479.3	11%
School Building Administration <i>Includes assistant principals and interns</i>	67.0	60.5			127.5	3%
Transportation	25.0	294.5			319.5	7%
Child Nutrition	1.0			176.5	177.5	4%
Central Services	16.4	7.2	-	1.9	25.5	1%
Totals	911.5	3,045.5	282.5	225.3	4,464.8	100%
% of Total	20%	68%	6%	5%	100%	

Durham Public Schools continues to strategically review the effective use of our personnel resources. The chart above illustrates our projection for staffing by funding source after we make the reductions to staff in this budget document to balance our projected revenues for FY 2009-10. We are committed to a high-level investment in teaching and instructional support positions that enhance the success of our students. Local revenues continue to be used to help fund literacy, academically gifted, LEP/ESL, reduced class-sizes, magnet/choice programs, intervention programs, and many other support and student services positions. We continue to turn a critical eye towards all of our programs, staffing and resources to ensure that we are maximizing existing resources first before adding additional positions or programs.

These are investments in our students and in the future of our community. They are priorities of our Board of Education, approved by the Durham County Board of Commissioners, and overwhelmingly supported by the Durham community.

Budget Process

In developing the 2009-10 budget, Durham Public Schools actively sought input from the community. Decisions surrounding the budget request weighed heavily upon the needs and concerns of a diverse pool of community representatives. The importance of the budget and the school district's accountability to the community is reflected in the amount of time school and community representatives contribute to putting it together. Durham Public Schools continues to work closely with the County of Durham to establish an understanding of the guidelines for the budget process, which includes:

- Continuing the priorities established in the 21st Century initiatives;
- Ensuring the involvement of community stakeholders in developing the budget, both from internal groups and external groups; and
- Adhering to a specific timeline for the budget development process.

This year's budget development priority was to stay within current resources. The process began in November 2008. The budget calendar was established, and mailings to the Budget Advisory Committee to appoint committee members followed in December 2008. The Budget Advisory Committee met twice in January 2009. This year, the committee comprised 16 community representatives, business partners, parents, teachers and school officials. Its purpose: to assist Durham Public Schools in setting budget priorities based on community input.

The primary focus was what it would take for Durham Public Schools to continue its increased performance levels. The group understood that much of our resources are tied to personnel and items beyond the district's control such as utilities and fuel costs. The group understood the lack of new resources and stressed the importance for the district to improve efficiencies, reduce paperwork for the teachers, and reduce testing for students where possible. They stressed the importance of resources being allocated towards teacher and school administrative staff development. DPS is committed to looking within existing resources to achieve these goals.

The Superintendent requested a delay of a month before presenting his budget to the Board of Education due to the late release of the Governor's budget and unknown guidelines surrounding the federal stimulus funds that would be coming to the district. As a result, in April, a draft budget was reviewed and modified by the Superintendent and the Executive Leadership Team of Durham Public Schools. The final budget request will be presented to the Board of Education on April 30, 2009. The next stage in the process is for the Board of Education to review the budget, hold a public hearing and adopt a Board of Education Budget Proposal for presentation to the County Commissioners on or before May 15, 2008.

2009-10 BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Board of Education
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Christopher Wilson

Business Partners:

Rick Brown
Warren Herndon
Ramon Johnson
Troy Livingston
Victor Velazquez

PTA Council:

Calleen Herbert

Durham Association of
Educators:

Auburn Body
Stephanie Humphrey

Teacher Representatives:

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Jim Johnson, Burton ES
Michael Maxson, Lowes Grove MS
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