

Context for FY17 Budget Request:

Since FY12 the Arlington Public Schools have added 534 students. In order to maintain the high level of service our community expects, we have added 55.75 teaching positions and additional curriculum materials at an approximate cost of \$4,600,000.

In FY15, the Town of Arlington, supported by the Long Range Planning Committee recommendation, began to provide additional funding to help offset the impact of the district's enrollment growth, for which the APS remains grateful. Through FY16, the Town increased APS appropriation by \$1,415,219 through a formula based on 25% of per pupil cost.

It has become clear that the School Department can no longer keep pace financially with the demands of enrollment growth under the existing parameters of the Long Range Plan without reducing services and over time the performance the community has come to expect.

The forecast of continuing enrollment growth makes clear the need for additional educational space at the elementary and middle school levels. The aging High School requires a comprehensive upgrade of all systems and educational spaces. Work to provide the facilities Arlington needs continues to move forward. However, without a fundamental change to the funding of operational costs we will likely be unable to staff the needed new educational spaces.