

From: [REDACTED]@apsva.us>  
Date: October 7, 2021 at 1:36:54 PM EDT  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Arlington Parents <arlingtonparentsforeducation@gmail.com>  
Subject: RE: APS ARP application.

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER\*\***

Good afternoon,

My apologies for the delay in getting back to you regarding this inquiry. Finance provided the following this morning:

- The Virtual Learning Program (VLP) amount was based on a specific number of teachers and other staff for the program. You can find the breakdown by category (salaries, benefits, etc.) on pages 354-355 of the FY 2022 Adopted budget document on the APS website (link: [https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/FY-2022-School-Boards-Adopted-Budget\\_final.pdf](https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/FY-2022-School-Boards-Adopted-Budget_final.pdf)).
- The Director of the Office of English Learners position was budgeted at the salary and benefits we would normally budget for a director position.
- The reading and math coaches were budgeted at the salary and benefits we would normally budget for a teacher position.
- Summer school was budgeted based on the prior year summer school budget plus the additions made by the School Board during the budget approval process. A breakdown by category can be found on pages 439-439 of the FY 2022 Adopted budget document on the APS website (see link above).
- MiFi's were budgeted at the amount approved by the School Board for the FY 2022 Adopted budget.
- Assessments were budgeted at the amount included in the FY 2022 Adopted budget and includes \$197,100 in baseline increases approved by the School Board.
- Screeners were budgeted at the amount included in the FY 2022 Adopted budget and includes \$77,000 in new requests approved by the School Board.
- Cleaning supplies were budgeted at the amount included in the FY 2022 Adopted budget for all schools and departments and includes \$41,002 in new requests approved by the School Board.
- Air filters were budgeted at the amount included in the FY 2022 Adopted budget for all schools and departments and includes \$2,500 in new requests approved by the School Board.

I hope this helps. Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@apsva.us>  
Date: Thu, Oct 28, 2021 at 11:35 AM  
Subject: RE: FOIA Request: Documentation of money spent on Summer School 2021  
To: FOIA <foia@apsva.us>, [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

This is in further response to your request on October 21, 2021 under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act for information about the allocation ARPA-ESSER funds to Summer School and the Virtual Learning (formerly called Digital Learning) programs.

The information you are seeking cannot be found in any single record; rather, it was part of the overall budget deliberations that the School Board engaged in and made public to everyone in the community from late February through May earlier this year. All of the School Board's budget discussions and decisions were conducted during public meetings. The information for all of these meetings have been made available online and can be watched through streaming video or AETV. In addition, School Board meetings during the budget process always provided time for public comment at the start of each meeting. Finally, the School Board hosted open office hours weekly to discuss questions or concerns.

The Superintendent presented the [Proposed FY 2022 Budget](#) in late February. Following that, staff met with the School Board in a series of Budget Work sessions over the next two months (*Feb. 25; Mar. 9, 16 and 23; April 6 and May 4*) to discuss the budget needs and options to close the \$42.5 million revenue deficit.

On April 8, the School Board adopted its [FY 2022 Proposed Budget](#) which included a series of proposed reductions as well as plans to use the ARP funds (which had not yet been allocated) "to fund Summer School incentive payments for staff, the Distance Learning Program for the fall 2021, and one-time costs for the opening of the new elementary school at the Reed site." At this time, APS had not received final confirmation of ARP funds that would be provided.

On April 12, the School Board met with the County Board to discuss its [FY 2022 Proposed Budget](#) and the steps that were being taken to close the revenue gap, including use of ARP funds and a request for additional funds from the County.

On April 29, the School Board conducted a public hearing on its FY 2022 Proposed Budget to receive additional input and feedback from the community. The Virginia Department of Education did not finally confirm that APS would receive approximately \$18.9 million in funding from the ARP funds until April 30, and by then the School Board was scheduled to adopt the final [FY 2022 APS Budget](#) only four business days later.

All documents related to the FY 2022 Budget deliberations and decisions are available on the APS website:

- All of the budget presentations for the FY 2022 are available [online](#).
- More detailed information about the ARPA-ESSER funds was also posted [online](#).
- The handouts, PowerPoint presentations and minutes for all of the School Board's meetings can be found on [BoardDocs](#) – click on "MEETINGS" in the upper right, and then click on 2021 on the left side to open the list of all meetings.
- You can also find videos of all School Board meetings and work sessions [online](#).
- Finally, on Board Docs, if you click on "LIBRARY" in the upper right, and then click on "BUDGET: FY 2022 Budget Materials and Budget Questions" you will find more information that were available during the budget process as the Board and staff worked to finalize the FY 2022 budget.

I hope these links are helpful for you to review the actions and discussions of the School Board and staff last year. Because all of these records have been made public, there is no charge for responding to your request.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]@apsva.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 4:31 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Arlington Parents <arlingtonparentsforeducation@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Arlington Parents for Education eNews article

**\*\*EXTERNAL SENDER\*\***

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and feedback. There are a couple of points I want to make.

1. APE is implying that we misused the funds by using them for VLP and that if we hadn't funded the VLP, we could have increased teacher compensation or added after school tutoring. This is false. We had to use the funds to close our budget gap and therefore we had to allocate ARPA funds to items in the budget – not new projects or services. Because we had no idea at the time how many students would elect the VLP, we could not estimate how much the program would cost
2. Funds for the VLP are being used to directly support virtual students. We initially said and still maintain that the VLP would draw down staffing at the schools that the students came from. Example: if 30 students from Ashlawn selected the VLP, staffing would come from Ashlawn to the VLP. If 20 of those students returned to Ashlawn, the staffing, and the funds associated with that staff, would return to Ashlawn.
3. ARPA funds were used to fill the gap in the budget. If the funds had not been used for the VLP (mostly staffing), they would have been used for staffing but at the schools.
4. The funding requested from the County for the VLP was only for the one-time costs associated with the program (materials and supplies, etc.).
5. We stated many times that the ARPA funds would be used to balance the budget, helping to close the gap APS was facing for FY22. If we had not done so, we would have had to CUT an additional \$18.5 million from the budget, significantly impacting resources for students and/or positions.
6. Our Finance department identified and admitted to the mistake immediately. It was a mere transposition of two columns in the application.

Additionally, the School Board adopted their FY22 budget on May 6, 2021. Included in this budget were \$18.9M in ARPA funds, which were reported in the superintendent's revised proposed budget at Budget Work Session #4 on April 6, 2021. Also included in this budget were expenditures for 1.5 FTE's to support the Distance Learning program. At the point of budget adoption on May 6, funding for additional school-based positions for Distance Learning was included in the home-school staffing allocations. These school-based positions (109 FTE's) were re-allocated from the home schools to the Virtual Learning Program in the published School Board's Adopted Budget. The footnote on page 355 clarifies that these positions are "the result of the school's [sic] drawdown of the projected student enrollment in the Virtual Learning Program (VLP) as of 5-4-2021."

Finally, on October 14, 2021, the School Board approved their internal auditor's 2021-22 work plan, which includes a project to analyze the process of providing staffing and resources to the Virtual Learning Program. It also includes a project to review the sources and reporting required for each component of American Rescue Act and Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief funds. The auditor will present his final report to the School Board in June 2022.

Please let me know if you have any questions and again, thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.