

**FY19 Budget
Wake County Commissioner Questions
All Other Questions**

Wake County Staff Responses based on WCPSS Document and/or prior information from WCPSS

1. Pages 146-147 - AIG teachers. What is meant by the sentence "This request represents the first of a five year plan intended to eliminate the gap between state funding for AIG and that from Wake County."? Which gap is referred to, what is the size of that gap, and what body determined the amount of local funds that would be spent on AIG education? Please identify the budget years in which Wake County earmarked funds for AIG instruction, the amount of such earmarks, and the insufficiency created thereby. If there were no such earmarks, on what basis is the statement made that there is a gap between state and county funding of AIG education? As a parent of two AIG-identified children, this issue is very important to me. I was unaware that the County was able to identify funds for specific purposes. If so, please confirm that the County can in fact identify specific funds for specific purposes and let us know which of the programs sought in this proposed budget are potentially subject to such earmarking. (Burns)

Response: The state has a funding formula that is used to allocate funding for AIG education. The gap being referenced is between the percentage of AIG students the state formula recognizes and the actual percentage of AIG students in Wake County. Under the state formula, each Local Education Agency (LEA) receives \$1,322.28 per child with a cap of 4 percent of average daily membership regardless of the number of children identified as academically or intellectually gifted in the LEA. Almost 17 percent of the Wake County K-12 student population is identified as academically and/or intellectually gifted, so there exists a funding gap between the allocation from the state and the actual need of Wake County students.

The current gap is approximately \$27.7 million. Using the Average Daily Membership (ADM) projection for 2018-19 of 162,327 students enrolled in the district, 12.9 percent of the ADM projection is 20,940 students ($162,327 \times 12.9\% = 20,940$). Based on the current 2017-18 per pupil state formula of \$1,322.28, the 12.9 percent unfunded per pupil amount is \$27,688,543 ($20,940 \times 1,322.28$).

The County cannot earmark funds specifically for AIG education. Per 115C-429(b), the board of county commissioners may, in its discretion, allocate part, or all, of its appropriation by purpose, function, or project. The most detailed level commissioners have the authority to budget at is by function and the functional levels that support AIG programs include many other programs. Only the Board of Education can determine how much local funding is specifically allocated to AIG education.

2. Is the school system going to implement a School Bus Arm Safety Camera program, as requested by this Board and authorized by the General Assembly last year? My understanding is that these systems are installed at no cost to the school system and managed by a third party and generate revenue in addition to enforcing the law for the safety of our students. If so, what is the timeline for implementation? (Burns/Calabria)

Response/Information for WCPSS:

The following steps have been taken by WCPSS on this issue:

- *Coordination with Wake County Government for them to establish a resolution stating WCPSS and Wake County will work to evaluate and research the implementation of Senate Bill 55 and to work with the County in developing the county-wide ordinance as appropriate,*
- *Issuance of RFI requesting information from providers of Yellow Bus Stop Arm Camera System Vendors to supply information on products they offer and respective business models. We have received and reviewed the responses, and*
- *Research across the country of Yellow Bus Stop Arm Camera Systems implementation results and analysis thereof.*

As we review results of efforts across the nation with this endeavor, increasingly employed by states, we find inconsistent results with regard to the efficacy of these programs reducing the incidence of vehicles passing school buses stopped with their crossing arms extended and their lights flashing. First and foremost, the safety of our students must be the focus of these programs.

Further, we find inconsistent results with regard to the revenue generation opportunities for the Counties and LEA's associated with these programs. Our review thus far indicates that programs such as these, despite being rooted in improving the safety of our students, come with potential local community criticism directed specifically to the LEA's.

We are not aware of any large LEA's in NC that have established comprehensive Yellow Bus Stop Arm Camera programs, and continue to discuss the opportunity with them. We are aware that the legislation allows LEA ('s) to request the State Board of Education to request them to issue a State-Wide RFP for such services. At this time, it is our understanding that the Department of Public Instruction has not issued any state-wide request for information or request for proposal.

Again, we will continue to pursue this matter.

Public Safety Related Questions from Commissioner Portman

3. What is the cost to provide all law enforcement with bullet proof vests that would protect against assault weapons? (Portman)

Sheriff Response: We currently buy approximately 100 + Level II plates per year at a price of \$525 per vest. So far, we've spent about \$50K on new and replacement vests. These carry a 5 year life cycle.

To equip all of our deputies with ADDITIONAL Level III vests, it would cost us approximately \$100,000 to \$300,000 depending upon the type of plates we went with. These vests are designed to be worn over current vests. Steel plates are as low as \$250 per vest while ceramic are approximately \$660 per vest. Additionally, different plates carry different warranties, some as much as 10 years. Keep in mind we would buy approximately 400 to give one to each deputy and to have spares available.

Of course, all of this is subject to the Sheriff making the final decision.

4. Cost to retrofit all classroom doors with lock that can be secured from inside the classroom. (Portman)

WCPSS Response: A cost to retrofit all classroom doors has too many variables to estimate (types of doors, number needed, labor availability, volume discount, type of lock, etc etc.) May have a range per door by tomorrow.

BMS Staff sent a follow-up on this last comment.

5. How many classrooms are there in wake county, Classroom is a room with a teacher assigned to teach? (Portman)

WCPSS Response: Rounded numbers for classrooms are 9,000 permanent and 1,000 trailers.