World-Class Education Means...

- The focus is on all students learning and achieving high standards.
- Instruction is engaging and rigorous.
- Reading and writing literacy is taught in all content areas.
- We support the academic, social, and emotional needs of all students.
- Schools and offices are inviting, welcoming, and customer oriented.
- We will accomplish our Strategic Plan by working together.

2016–20 Strategic Plan Goals

**GOAL 1**
All students meet high standards of performance.

**GOAL 2**
The teaching, learning, and working environment is safe, caring, healthy, and values human diversity.

**GOAL 3**
Family, community, and employee engagement create an environment focused on improved student learning and work readiness.

**GOAL 4**
Employees are highly qualified (as defined by VDOE), high performing, and diverse.

**GOAL 5**
The organizational system is aligned and equitable.
2017 Legislative Priorities

**Priority 1**

**FULL-FUNDING FOR THE STANDARDS OF QUALITY (SOQ)**

Prince William County Public Schools urges the Virginia legislature to take into account the real cost of meeting SOQ requirements, not just the minimum previously assumed by the state to be necessary.

Therefore, the Prince William County School Board supports legislation that would provide full-funding for implementing the SOQ, including recognition and full-funding of realistic support personnel requirements.

**Priority 2**

**FUNDING FOR TEACHER SALARY INCREASES AND COST-OF-COMPETING ALLOCATION (COCA)**

In order to meet the federal, state, and local academic benchmarks, PWCS must be able to compete for the “best and brightest” teachers. Funding for teacher salaries is essential to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers. The Commonwealth of Virginia must provide school divisions with increased funding for the Commonwealth’s share of teacher and support staff salaries and benefits.

Therefore, the Prince William County School Board supports legislation that would provide funding for annual teacher salary increases and reinstate full-funding for COCA for Region 4 school divisions for both teachers and support staff.

**Priority 3**

**TARGETED, NEW FUNDING TO REDUCE CLASS-SIZE**

Funding of public education is a shared responsibility. Local school boards work in partnership with the General Assembly, Board of Education, and local appropriating bodies to provide public education in the Commonwealth. Past changes to state funding for public education widened already-significant gaps between the actual local-level costs of programs and services and the amount reimbursed by the state.

Even with some restorations to state funding in the last legislative session, the past cutbacks have forced PWCS (and other school divisions statewide) to increase class-size in order to maintain parent-desired programs and services. As a result, class-size across much of PWCS was raised to or near state maximums.

The PWCS administration and School Board have begun the expensive work of lowering class-size in targeted grade levels. Additionally, in collaboration with the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, PWCS is using some special funding to reduce class-size further.

However, in a large school division with an ever increasing student population like PWCS, it would take approximately $15 million to lower class-size by one student per class across all grade levels in staffing costs alone, and that would have only limited impact on student learning. To build the necessary classroom space to alleviate overcrowding, eliminate the use of trailers, and hire the additional teachers needed to lower class-size significantly enough to improve academic results, it requires targeted, new funding from the state, above and beyond any provided at the local level.

Therefore, the Prince William County School Board supports legislation that would provide targeted, new funding not only to build the necessary classroom space, but also, to hire the additional teachers needed to lower class-size significantly enough to improve academic results.
Demographics
• Second largest school division in Virginia
• 35th largest in the nation
• 100 schools and education centers
• Nearly 89,000 students, approximately 1,600 more for 2016-17, an 8.9% increase over the last five years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Minority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Special Education: 12.01%
English Learners: 26.22%

Personnel (Full-Time Equivalents)
Total Employees: 11,008
Teaching Staff: 5,982

Academics
• 2016 SAT total mean score: 1507 (17-point increase over the past three years)
• 2015-16 On-time graduation rate: 91.8% (increase from 83% since 2008)

High School Specialty Instructional Programs
• Advanced Placement Scholars
• Biotechnology
• Cambridge Programme
• Environmental and Natural Sciences
• Fine and Performing Arts
• Information Technology
• International Baccalaureate Programme
• International Studies and Languages
• Pre-Governor’s School
• STEM Program at the Governor’s School @ Innovation Park

PWCS is focused on instruction...
• Free Pre-SAT for all 10th- and 11th- graders
• Full-day kindergarten Divisionwide
• Baldrige Excellence Framework for Education
• Visiting International Faculty
• Central Registration and World Languages Center
• Skilled English language instruction for new English speakers
• Superintendent’s Advisory Council for Instruction representing every school
• Professional Learning Communities to promote sharing of best teaching practices
• Inclusive practices and individualized support for students with special needs
• Pre-K educational services to 566 economically disadvantaged students
• Diverse enrichment offerings for all students in the arts
• Flexible online education through the Virtual High School @ PWCS

PRIORITY 4
ELIMINATE THE LOCAL MATCH FOR PRESCHOOL FUNDS

As reported in the May 8, 2013, edition of “Education Week” article entitled “Charting Pre-K’s Value for All,” there is agreement among most early-childhood-education researchers that a high-quality pre-K program can:

• Boost school readiness substantially for disadvantaged children; and
• Lead to higher high school graduation rates, lower rates of juvenile delinquency, less substance abuse, and higher adult earnings.

Many research studies have shown that high-quality pre-K programs not only benefit disadvantaged children in the short-run, but also generate favorable returns for taxpayers in the long-run.

Because of limited state and local funding for K-12 education overall and the need to maintain current programs and services, the local match required by school divisions to receive Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) funding is not always available to fully utilize the state’s designated pre-K money. Even in situations, like PWCS, where there is insufficient classroom space to use all of the state funds available, PWCS could identify schools that do have space and could expand pre-K efforts if the requirement for local matching funds was not in place.

Therefore, the Prince William County School Board supports legislation that would eliminate the local school division budgetary match...
currently required to receive VPI funding to allow school divisions to expand preschool opportunities without negatively impacting funding for other programs and services.

**PRIORITY 5**

**INCREASED AND TARGETED FUNDING FOR TECHNOLOGY**

As Virginia faced the challenge of balancing the budget following the Recession of 2008, policymakers made deep cuts in funding for public schools. While some state funding has been restored, nine years after the advent of the recession, state per pupil funding adjusted for inflation still remains below pre-recessionary levels. As a result, school divisions have a difficult time budgeting for the ever-changing classroom technologies. The current state-provided “technology refresh” funding program is insufficient to keep up with the growing number of digital devices in the schools and the cycle of equipment replacement.

These technology needs include everything from basic network infrastructure (both wired and wireless) — to servers and related equipment — to student computers, tablets, and other devices. Additionally, a survey conducted by the Virginia Department of Education determined that the needed bandwidth (the total information flow in a given time on a telecommunications medium) for voice, video, and data to be transmitted from most of Virginia’s schools is insufficient. In fact, while 36% of the schools in the Commonwealth are at 10-50 kilobits per second (Kbps — thousands of bits per second) or .01-.05 megabits per second (Mbps — millions of bits per second) of Internet bandwidth per student, it is recommended by the Education Superhighway and the State Educational Technology Directors Association that our schools be at 1.0 Mbps of Internet bandwidth per student by 2018. The cost to fill the gap between what exists and what is required is too large for school divisions to fund at the local level alone.

Therefore, the Prince William County School Board supports legislation that would provide increased and targeted funding for educational technology infrastructure and increased bandwidth. Further, surveys demonstrate that school divisions within the Commonwealth pay substantially more for bandwidth than national averages. Such legislation should also recognize that this issue is best addressed at the state level.

**PRIORITY 6**

**ALLOW SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICERS TO FILE MOTIONS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS**

A legislative change is needed to permit school attendance officers to file motions and other documents beyond an initial CHINS petition without violating the unauthorized practice of law rules. The need for this minor change to the existing statute was called to the attention of PWCS by the judges of the Prince William County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. This would be similar to legislative changes that recently went through doing the same thing for social workers who work closely with juvenile and domestic courts.

Therefore, the Prince William County School Board supports legislation that would permit school attendance officers to file motions and other documents beyond an initial CHINS petition without violating the unauthorized practice of law rules.

**PRIORITY 7**

**PROVIDE NEW FUNDING FOR SCHOOL NURSE STAFFING**

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) recommends daily access to a professional school nurse to improve students’ health, safety, and ability to learn. To meet these student health and safety needs, the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the American Academy of Pediatrics have supported a school nurse-to-student ratio of one nurse for every 750 students.

NASN advises that a student’s health is directly related to his or her ability to learn. Children with unmet health needs have a difficult time engaging in the educational process. The school nurse supports student success by providing health care through assessment, intervention, and follow-up for all children within the school setting. The school nurse addresses the physical, mental, emotional, and social health needs of students and supports their achievement in the learning process.

Research has shown that appropriate school nurse staffing is related to better student attendance and academic success, as well as improvements in immunization rates, vision correction, and identification of life-threatening conditions. Other research found that when there is a school nurse present, a principal gains nearly an hour per day and teachers an extra 20 minutes a day to focus on education instead of student health issues.

Therefore, the Prince William County School Board supports legislation that would provide new funding within the SOQ so that school divisions can staff for one nurse for every 750 students.
Statements of Support/Opposition

Organized by State Legislative K-12 Subject Areas

Conduct and Discipline
Oppose all bills that would mandate additional statewide disciplinary procedures that would inhibit school administrators in circumstances where immediate disciplinary intervention is required.

Finance/Purchasing/Food Service
Support and advocate for all bills that eliminate unnecessary mandates, fully fund any new mandates placed upon school divisions, and increase the local school board's flexibility on how to spend funding allocations.

Support and advocate for all bills that increase funding for part-day Governor's Schools, including The Governor's School @ Innovation Park, in proportion to the funding provided to full-day Governor's Schools and oppose any cuts to funding for part-day programs.

Support and advocate for all bills that would prohibit the use of lottery funds to supplant general funding for Virginia school divisions.

Oppose all bills that would require funding to “follow the student” in situations in which the home school division offers a complete virtual school program but the student elects to enroll in one offered by another school division.

Instruction and Standards of Learning
Support and advocate for all bills directing the state to define comparable verified units for students transferring to Virginia school divisions from other states for graduation purposes.

Oppose all bills that would require additional time per week for physical education due to the financial impact and the effect it would have on the length of the school day.

Support and advocate for all bills that provide increased and targeted funding for the necessary resources and expertise to provide professional development and support collaboration so that all school division employees (teachers, support staff, and administrators) are better able to support classroom instruction and student learning.

Instructional Technology
Support and advocate for all bills that provide continued, annual funding to PWCS to coordinate the statewide implementation of VA STAR, which provides free, refurbished computers and training to students and schools in need of technology.

Retirement and Insurance
Support and advocate for all bills that authorize the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) to modify policies that would make it easier for school divisions to hire retired law enforcement officers in order to compete with the private sector when hiring school security staff.

School Board Governance
Support and advocate for all bills that provide local school boards with the option to count recess as part of the instructional day, as a more accurate accounting of instructional minutes.

Support and advocate for all bills that would give local school divisions more flexibility on how to spend funding allocations and to implement policies to improve K-12 effectiveness and efficiency, such as repeal of the law that prevents school divisions from opening before Labor Day.

Support and advocate for all bills that would divest (limit) local school boards of their authority over the formation and operation of charter schools within their school divisions.

Standards of Quality/Standards of Accreditation
Support and advocate for all bills that prevent the use of an “A-F Grading Scale” to rank Virginia's schools.

Support and advocate for all bills that continue to reexamine Virginia's public school assessments and the system of accountability.

Special Services
Support and advocate for all bills that better coordinate the Virginia Sales Tax Holiday for school supplies and clothing with the opening of school and expand qualifying items to include such things as technology tools.
Educational Excellence

The School Division is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including:

- Virginia Region IV Superintendent of the Year, 2016
- Parkside Middle School approved as Cambridge International Professional Development site – the first in the nation, 2016
- National Outstanding Assistant Principal, Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals, 2015, 2016
- All PWCS high schools continue to be ranked among the top ten percent in the United States, in “The Washington Post” “America's Most Challenging High Schools List,” 2016
- Meritorious Budget Award, Association of School Business Officials, 1997-2016
- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, Government Finance Officers Association, 2000-16
- American School Counselor Association Model Programs, 2010-16
- Friend of Foreign Language Association of Virginia Award presented to Superintendent, 2015
- Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program, 2015
- District of Distinction, District Administration Magazine, 2015
- Pathfinders Award presented to Superintendent, Board of Directors of Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals, 2015
- Top 30 Award, Center for Digital Education, 2015
- Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award, 2006-15
- Virginia Schools to Watch, National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform, 2009-15
- Silver Certified Green School Division, Virginia School Boards Association, 2009-15
- Blue Ribbon Schools, Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association, 2010-15
- Energy Star Certification, 32 schools cumulative, 2014-15
- College Board AP Honor Roll, 2013, 2015
- Teacher of the Year, Virginia Society for Technology in Education, 2014
- Virginia School Counselor Association Elementary Principal of the Year, 2014
- Ranked #1 in Digital School Districts Survey, Center for Digital Education, 2014
- Top-10 Ranking in Digital School Districts Survey, Center for Digital Education, 2009-14
- Crystal Star Award of Excellence in Dropout Recovery, 2013
- Northern Virginia Living Magazine named Osbourn Park High School’s Biotechnology Center and the Governor’s School @ Innovation Park among the top schools in the Commonwealth for excellence and innovation, 2013
- Northern Virginia Living Magazine named 14 Prince William County elementary schools among the top 25 percent in Northern Virginia, 2013
- Virtual High School Digital Content and Curriculum Achievement Award, 2013
Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS) does not discriminate in employment or in its educational programs and activities against qualified individuals on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, veteran status, or disability. PWCS provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual will handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies, including Section 504 and Title IX:

Mr. Craig Gfeller
Associate Superintendent for Human Resources

Information provided is based on the latest available data from Prince William County Public Schools. For further information, contact: Keith Imon, Associate Superintendent for Communications and Technology Services at imonka@pwcs.edu or 703.791.7451, or Jim Council, PWCS Lobbyist at jgovconsult@verizon.net or 804.347.0503.

For the latest legislative updates, visit the PWCS web site at HTTP://WWW.PWCS.EDU/DEPARTMENTS/INFO/LEGISLATE.HTML.