

# Prince William County Public Schools

- C. **Federal Government Debt Service Reimbursements** – The Build America Bonds (BAB) and Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) programs were created as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The programs were intended to stimulate the national economy out of economic recession by helping state and local jurisdictions regain access to bond markets after the financial collapse made it difficult to borrow for infrastructure improvements. Municipalities issued taxable bonds at higher interest rates with the federal government subsidizing 35% of interest payments under the BAB program and 100% of interest payments under the QSCB program. BAB and QSCB revenue received from the federal government is transferred from the County’s general fund to the Schools’ debt service fund since the Schools pay the annual debt service financed by those bond issuances. However, reimbursement from the federal government has declined due to the federal government sequester. The current sequestration reduction rate for the BAB and QSCB programs is 5.7% less than originally planned.
- D. **Class Size Reduction Grant** – On April 21, 2015, the BOCS adopted [BOCS Resolution 15-292](#) creating a Class Size Reduction Grant of up to \$1.0 million. The grant is intended to help the School Board address the issue that PWCS class sizes are at the maximum permitted under Virginia law. Such funding was contingent upon the execution of a separate grant agreement between the School Board and the Prince William BOCS that includes the following provisions:
1. The County’s funding, up to \$1,000,000, is matched dollar for dollar by the School Board.
  2. The combined amount, up to \$2,000,000, is used exclusively to sustain the class size reductions achieved during the 2015-2016 school year.
  3. The combined amount, up to \$2,000,000, cannot be used to supplant the level of effort toward class size reduction already contained within the Schools’ budget.
- E. **Gainesville High School (13th High School) Debt Service Equivalent** – In recognition of higher student enrollment than anticipated by PWCS, the BOCS approved BOCS [Resolution 17-18](#) on January 10, 2017 which transferred \$10,675,000 to the Schools for school site acquisition, renovations, and new school construction in the eastern portion of the County. The BOCS also directed the County Executive to include in the FY2018 Budget annual debt service costs necessary to finance an additional \$10,675,000 for additional capital project expenses at the high school. This is an additional transfer to the Schools over and above the Schools’ share of general revenue identified in the County/Schools Revenue Agreement. Board action was in response to the PWCS Board approving an alternative design for the school on January 4, 2017 that increased student capacity at the new school by over 500 students and increased the cost by \$10,675,000. Gainesville High School will open in August 2021.
- F. **Cable Grant** – An annual 1% cable equipment grant is provided by cable television providers operating in the County. Grant proceeds must be used for cable related capital needs. Although not considered general revenue, revenue derived from the grant is shared with PWCS in accordance with the County/Schools revenue agreement. Both the County and Schools use cable equipment grant proceeds to support informational programming on their respective access channels. Grant receipts are evaluated on an annual basis for potential, future adjustments.
- G. **School Security Program** – The budget continues to transfer \$500,000 to the Schools for enhancing security at elementary schools in the County. The program includes six staff members including five community security officers and one community safety officer supervisor. The personnel are school employees and takes advantage of state law that allows school systems to hire retired law enforcement officers to serve as armed security. The funding is transferred to the Schools from the Police Department budget.
- H. **Student Enrollment Growth** is projecting a growth rate of a little less than 1.0% per year over the next five years (FY22-26). The PWC School division estimates estimates 1,177 additional students will enroll in FY22 (September 2021) bringing total student enrollment to a projected 89,991 students. Actual student enrollment decreased from 91,526 in FY2020 to 88,814 in FY2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.