



## WCPS Budget Talking Points

- On a per-pupil basis, Wicomico County funding for education is actually lower in 2025 than it was in 2010, over \$40 lower per pupil.
- That doesn't even consider inflation. Considering inflation, the \$3623 per pupil in 2010 equates to \$5312 today; which turns that \$40 per pupil decrease into an actual decrease of \$1,729 per pupil, or nearly \$26 million less per year.
- The county faced a significant reduction in revenue during the 2011-12 recession. While, at the time, the Board received just over 40% of the county budget, the county passed on nearly 90% of its overall budget reduction to just the school system. It's also important to note that now in 2025 the school system only comprises 25% of the overall county's budget when in 2010 the school system budget was over 40% of the overall county budget. **(See attachment # 2)**
- Compared to the rest of the state, Wicomico County ranks dead last in terms of its per-pupil funding to the school system. **(See attachment #3)**
- In addition, the school system continues to face escalating costs each year. This coming year we are looking at a \$4 million health insurance increase and a \$1.2 million increase in utility costs. There are many other inflationary costs the school system is experiencing as well.
- The funding problem the school system faces today wasn't created by the current County Council or County Executive, but we want to work with current leadership to begin restoring funding back to the budget percentage levels that existed prior to 2010.
- It won't happen overnight, so, in collaboration with concerned citizens, we are proposing taking small steps each year – increasing the county allocation by the inflation rate from the previous year and an additional 2% investment that will start to get us back to the funding levels we were at 15 years ago. The 2% investment each year will allow us to do things like reduce our large class sizes, improve school climate and safety, increase the number of after school and extracurricular activities we offer at all grade levels, and invest in our art and music programs.
- None of the above areas are able to be covered by the additional state funding we receive through Blueprint. Blueprint funding is required to be used to implement brand new services offered by the school system such as PreK, dual enrollment, and services offered by the schools to families out in the community.
- So, if we want smaller class sizes, improved school climate and safety, better extracurricular programs, and more robust fine arts programs, the funding has to come for those things through the re-investment of local county funds beyond just the same amount the school system was receiving from the local government 15 years ago.