

Montgomery County Public Schools

FY 2008 OPERATING BUDGET

Public Engagement and the Operating Budget

The Montgomery County Board of Education has strengthened public engagement in the development of the MCPS Operating Budget. MCPS has implemented new methods this fall to expand public participation. Feedback received from this process has influenced the proposals included in the FY 2008 Operating Budget. Below are details of the new process.

- For the past three years, the Board of Education has held public community forums in the fall to provide feedback on the progress of the MCPS strategic plan and how the budget can be better aligned with the strategic goals of the school system.
- On September 21, staff and Board members met with parent, student, employee association, and community leaders to offer them an opportunity to provide feedback and to institute an ongoing process to obtain feedback from their constituency groups.
- On October 12, the Board held a public community forum at which 37 individuals testified.
- In addition, MCPS is receiving ongoing feedback online and through feedback cards in multiple languages that have been distributed to parents and community organizations. More than 30,000 cards in six languages have been distributed. Over 1,600 comments have been received from more than 400 respondents.
- Main themes identified in the comments include:
 - curriculum, assessment, and instruction;
 - teacher quality and compensation;
 - class size;
 - parent outreach and communication; and
 - facilities issues.
- Recommendations in the FY 2008 Operating Budget reflecting community feedback include:
 - improvements in staff compensation
 - middle school enhancement,
 - hours-based staffing for special education at 10 more middle schools,
 - school counseling,
 - translation services, and
 - expansion of gifted and talented programs.

