

EQUITY MUST BE CENTRAL TO THE WJCC SCHOOLS BUDGET

A budget proposal from The Village Initiative

The Williamsburg/James City County School District faces an important opportunity with the 2018 budget planning cycle. Equity must be a core commitment in our public school system.

Equity matters because all kids deserve opportunities to succeed.

FUNDING PRIORITY #1

Base funding on student need, not student population.

The Problem:

In WJCC, there are double-digit achievement gaps between white students and minority students and between economically advantaged and disadvantaged students.

Students who need more resources to succeed are concentrated at certain schools, but funding is based on the number of students at each school, not on student needs.

The Solution:

Fund schools based on student needs, not population size.

Evaluate programs like James River IB program and English Language Learners to ensure that resources are adequate and implementation is effective.

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VILLAGE

The Village Initiative is a grassroots organization devoted to achieving greater equity in the WJCC School District by closing the opportunity gap and ending the school-to-prison pipeline. Contact us on Facebook at Our Village or by phone at 757-713-2543.

FUNDING PRIORITY #2

Hire and retain minority teachers.

The Problem:

In the WJCC School District, 40% of our students are minorities while few of our teachers are minorities. Students need role models who look like them and have shared experiences.

The Solution:

Fund initiatives to hire and retain teachers of color, including mentoring, professional development and drafting of new curriculum and events that enhance diversity.

FUNDING PRIORITY #3

Require cultural competency training.

The Problem:

Teachers in the WJCC School District have not been provided adequate cultural competency training to enable them to develop strong relationships with diverse student populations that will foster academic success.

The Solution:

Fund mandatory cultural competency training for all teachers.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Contact your member of the WJCC School Board and tell him or her you support needs-based funding of our schools, recruitment and retention of minority teachers, and mandatory cultural competency training for all teachers.
- Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your support of these priorities.
- Spread the word about this initiative to other members of local civic and advocacy groups to which you belong.
- Become a tutor with the Village Initiative's Tutoring program to support students at James River Elementary School and Berkeley Middle School.