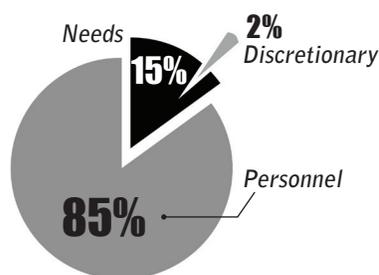


Each year, the Department of Budget and Finance works to use the funds and grants from the federal, state and local level to provide for a division of close to 67,000 students, a full-time staff of more than 10,000 people and close to 100 schools and buildings across the city. In 2017-18, VBCPS has a balanced a budget of more than \$860 million dollars. As the work continues to balance the 2018-19 budget, the VBCPS FactChecker looks at some common budget questions and misperceptions.

## BUDGET BREAKDOWN

85 percent of the budget goes to personnel costs. The remaining 15 percent has to address needs such as electric bills for schools and gasoline for school buses. Annually, there is typically less than 2 percent of the budget available for discretionary spending. Those remaining funds are used strategically to ensure students are receiving the highest-quality education possible from the most-equipped teachers and staff, including by bringing in industry experts to consult or having staff attend educational conferences.



STATE FUNDING HAS DECREASED

# 5.5%

*Public education spending is actually on the decline.* State funding for schools has decreased 5.5% since 2009. While local funding has increased in that time period, those increases have gone to adjust inflation, address rising healthcare costs and tackle mandated increases to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) as well as to support academic programs and employee compensation.

## TRAVEL

Travel for employees is less than .14 of a percent of the entire school budget. In addition, for 2016-17, the school division spent less on travel than in the three years prior.



VBCPS is a leader in budget management and has earned national and state awards for its responsible budget practices. VBCPS is a 17-time Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) Meritorious Budget Award winner.



There is a detailed Interim Financial Statement that is presented to the School Board every month. It includes a report of budgeted revenues and actual revenues by source, and remaining budget balances. This report is available to the public and can viewed on [vbschools.com](http://vbschools.com).