

**Fairfax County Public Schools Student Accountability Plan
2002 – 2003 School Year
Grades 6 – 8**

The FCPS Student Accountability Plan

The Student Accountability Plan is designed to support the educational success of each student. All students in grades 7 and 8 must pass the English, mathematics, science and social studies courses in which they are enrolled. The plan requires elementary and middle school students to meet specific academic Promotion Benchmarks at the end of each grade from kindergarten through eighth grade.

At-risk students who do not meet these Promotion Benchmarks may need additional time to learn. When a student fails to make progress toward meeting basic academic requirements, teachers will work with parents and school administrators to establish an appropriate instructional plan to focus on the problem areas.

The Student Accountability Plan will be phased in over the next several years for kindergarten through eighth grade. During the 2002-2003 school year, the Student Accountability Plan applies to all students in sixth grade through eighth grade.

Key Definitions

- Promotion Benchmarks: A specific set of academic requirements used with students at risk of failure. Promotion Benchmarks represent foundational skills and knowledge found in the FCPS Program of Studies and Virginia Standards of Learning. For students with disabilities, attainment of the Promotion Benchmarks is determined in accordance with the goals and accommodations defined in the student's individualized Education Program (IEP).
- Promotion: Advancement to the next grade level.
- Conditional Promotion: Conditional advancement to the next grade level. A student who is conditionally promoted has made progress toward attaining the academic requirements but must master key Promotion Benchmarks to be successful at the next grade level. The student is required to attend summer school. After summer school, based on progress toward attaining the Promotion Benchmarks, the student may be promoted, conditionally promoted to the next grade level with the requirement to receive focused remediation, or retained.
- Retention: Repetition of the current grade level.
- Focused Remediation: Specific instruction designed to provide conditionally promoted students with the foundational knowledge and skills needed in order to be successful in the core classes.

Decisions Regarding Promotion, Conditional Promotion or Retention

The principal at a student's home school will maintain the responsibility for grade placement. The principal reviews the student's progress, consults with staff and parents and takes into account all relevant information about the student (e.g., IEP and English proficiency level).

Parents are encouraged to work with school staff to maximize their child's potential at each grade level. The Student Accountability Plan supports the FCPS mission to "educate all students to meet high academic standards and to prepare all students to be responsible citizens in the 21st century."