

Questions New Teachers May Ask

What is *Great Beginnings*?

Great Beginnings is a year-long induction program for new teachers in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offered through the Department of Professional Learning and Training. We have programs for first-, second-, and third-year teachers as well as for experienced teachers who are new to FCPS. Teachers meet in cohorts with other new teachers and get “just in time” information about topics such as preparing for Back to School Night, classroom management, reading strategies, standards-based lesson planning and other topics. They also take part in a Summer Institute that prepares them for the first days of school.

Who is eligible for *Great Beginnings*?

Teachers on a full- or part-time contract must have a standard or a provisional instructional license in Virginia or from another state.

First-year teachers enroll in the <i>Great Beginnings Teacher Induction Program</i> .	Third-year teachers enroll in the <i>Expanding Your Horizons Program</i> .
Second-year teachers enroll in the <i>Continuing the Journey Program</i> .	Experienced teachers new to FCPS enroll in the <i>Enriching the Experience Program</i> .

Is there a cost for me?

No, all *Great Beginnings* programs are offered at no cost to the participants.

What’s in it for me?

- Attend our Summer Institute and monthly after-school sessions offering opportunities for learning, communicating and accessing resources
- Join a network of experienced teachers and specialists to guide you every step of the way
- Be a member of the FCPS professional learning community

How do I register?

Registration is now open for new hires at <http://www.fcps.edu/plt/greatb.htm> and will remain open until December 2008.

What happens if I’m hired after the start of the school year?

Great Beginnings offers:

- An Autumn Institute for teachers hired after the beginning of the school year.
- A Winter Institute for teachers hired during October 2008 through January 2009.
- Teachers hired in 2009 may audit the *Great Beginnings* program and are eligible to enroll for the following school year.
- A mentor for all new teachers for the first full year of teaching.

How is *Great Beginnings* designed to meet my specific classroom needs?

First-year teachers meet in cohorts with teachers from the same grade levels and/or subject areas. Elementary cohorts include all grade-level classes. Secondary cohorts are divided by subject area and level. Both elementary and secondary programs include ESOL and special education support.

Can I get recertification points for *Great Beginnings*?

Yes, teachers who hold a five-year renewable instructional license from the Commonwealth of Virginia are eligible for up to 90 recertification points for completion of the *Great Beginnings* Program.

Who do I contact for more information?

Elementary contact:

Ray Lonnett
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Secondary contact:

Richard Culp
703-204-4009
richard.culp@fcps.edu

For general information visit our web site at
<http://www.fcps.edu/plt/greatb.htm>

