

2008 Virginia School Census



... to participate. It's time once again for the Triennial Virginia School Census mandated by Virginia law. It's SIMPLE and quick and will ease your personal Fairfax County tax burden along with helping us plan for school facility and staffing needs. After March 1, every residential household will receive a 2008 Virginia School Census form requesting prompt reply to this triennial census via web, mail, phone or fax.

Every three years, the commonwealth of Virginia requires all school divisions to conduct a census of their school-age residents (Code of Virginia §22.1-281, §22.1-282, §22.1-283, §22.1-284, §22.1-285 and §22.1-286). The census data are used to help determine the equitable distribution of state sales tax revenues designated to support public education programs. Therefore, every resident in the county benefits from participating. For each school-age child residing in Fairfax County, Fairfax County Public Schools realizes approximately \$3,000 in state funds (based on the last three years of state-funded sales tax revenues). These funds offset tax dollars assessed to real and personal property taxpayers for virtually 100 percent of Fairfax residents.

In addition to the return of state sales tax revenues, Fairfax County Public Schools will also use the census data to help forecast school enrollment and plan for future school needs. With such vital economic and planning issues at stake, it is critical that all Fairfax households respond to the census, whether or not they have school-age children. **All data are confidential and are NOT provided to any other agency, company, or individual.**

The 2008 Virginia School Census will be conducted between March 1 and July 15, 2008. The census will cover residents under the age of 20 as of December 31, 2008, regardless of whether they are enrolled in Fairfax County Public Schools, enrolled in a preschool program, enrolled in a private school, schooled at home, away at college, enlisted in the military, or located in a remote hospital or other facility.

To minimize expenses of gathering census data, we ask that residents respond using the Internet. It is easy and quick, saves return postage, and reduces clerical time. This easy step can be completed by using the ID and PIN found on the top left corner of your census form and logging onto www.fcps.edu/census. This website is secure.

However, if you do not have Internet connectivity or you prefer not to use the Internet to respond, you may use one of the other methods below to respond:

- Mail in your form, using the envelope provided.
- Phone: 703-752-0950.
- Fax: 703-329-0791.

We are endeavoring to make this 2008 Virginia School Census as easy as it can be! Please help us with this important activity. We urge your early participation to help us complete the work on time, without need for follow-up actions, and to attain the greatest coverage.

Stay tuned for progress reports on this web site, in local newspapers, and on the radio. We want to keep you informed.