

## ORGANIZATION, PHILOSOPHY, AND GOALS

### Philosophy and Goals

#### II Statement of Beliefs, Vision, Mission, and Student Achievement Goals

This policy supersedes Policy 1403.5.

#### I. PURPOSE

To define and describe the beliefs, vision, mission, and student achievement goals of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS).

#### II. BELIEFS

##### We Believe in Our Children.

- Each child is important and entitled to the opportunity to realize his or her fullest potential.
- High expectations promote high achievement.

##### We Believe in Our Teachers.

- Effective teachers are essential to student success.
- Learning occurs best when instruction is tailored to individual needs.

##### We Believe in Our Public Education System.

- Adults and children thrive in a vibrant, safe, enriching, and respectful environment.
- A well-rounded education enables students to lead fulfilling and culturally rich lives.
- An educated citizenry is critical to sustaining our economy and our system of self-governance.

##### We Believe in Our Community.

- A dynamic partnership among students, parents, teachers, staff members, and the community is critical to exceptional student achievement.
- Our diversity creates resilient, open, and innovative citizens of the global community.

### III. VISION

#### Looking to the Future

FCPS prepares all students for the world of the future by giving them a broad spectrum of opportunities to prepare for education and employment beyond high school. All graduates are productive and responsible members of society, capable of competing in the global economy, and motivated to pursue learning throughout their lifetimes.

#### Commitment to Opportunity

FCPS values its diversity and acknowledges that all people contribute to the well-being of the community. FCPS provides opportunities for all its students and employees to grow educationally, personally, and professionally.

#### Community Support

Fairfax County embraces its schools. Businesses and community members generously volunteer their time and resources to help students. Schools are integrated into the fabric of the community, and residents take pride in their schools. The success of FCPS draws businesses to Fairfax County. Citizens support the financial and capital needs of the school system.

#### Achievement

Fairfax County students achieve at high levels across a broad spectrum of pursuits. FCPS values a well-rounded education that goes beyond basics and encompasses the arts, literacy, technology, and preparation for the world of work. FCPS provides a breadth and depth of opportunities to allow all students to stretch their capabilities.

#### Accountability

FCPS is accountable for the academic achievement of all students. FCPS measures academic progress to ensure that all students, regardless of race, poverty, language, or disability, will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary for college and/or employment. FCPS spends money wisely. FCPS directs funds to the classroom and finds ways to improve performance across the spectrum of academic programs and business processes.

### IV. MISSION

FCPS, a world-class school system, inspires, enables, and empowers students to meet high academic standards, lead ethical lives, and demonstrate responsible citizenship.

## V. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT GOALS

The Fairfax County School Board shall establish the following student achievement goals to serve as guidelines for divisionwide planning and budgeting.

### 1. ACADEMICS

All students will obtain, understand, analyze, communicate, and apply knowledge and skills to achieve success in school and in life. Students will:

1.1. Achieve their full academic potential in the core disciplines of:

1.1.1 English language arts:

1.1.1.1 Reading.

1.1.1.2. Writing.

1.1.1.3. Communication.

1.1.2 Math.

1.1.3 Science.

1.1.4 Social studies.

1.2 Communicate in at least two languages.

1.3 Explore, understand, and value the fine and practical arts.

1.4 Understand the interrelationship and interdependence of the countries and cultures of the world.

1.5 Effectively use technology to access, communicate, and apply knowledge and to foster creativity.

### 2. ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS

All students will demonstrate the aptitude, attitude, and skills to lead responsible, fulfilling, and respectful lives. Working in partnership with school and family, students will:

2.1 Demonstrate sound moral character and ethical judgment:

2.1.1 Model honesty and integrity.

2.1.2 Take responsibility for their actions.

2.1.3 Keep their promises and commitments.

2.1.4 Respect people, property, and authority.

2.1.5 Exercise good stewardship of the environment.

2.1.6 Protect others' health and safety.

2.1.7 Show respect and understanding for the interests and opinions of others.

2.1.8 Be capable of placing their own self-interests in perspective with the interests of others.

- 2.2 Be able to contribute effectively within a group dynamic.
- 2.3 Develop the resilience and self-confidence required to deal effectively with life's challenges.
- 2.4 Possess the skills to manage and resolve conflict.
- 2.5 Be inspired to learn throughout life.
- 2.6 Courageously identify and pursue their personal goals.
- 2.7 Develop practical life skills including but not limited to:
  - 2.7.1 Problem solving and critical thinking.
  - 2.7.2 Work habits and ethics.
  - 2.7.3 Financial competency.
  - 2.7.4 Self-sufficiency.
  - 2.7.5 Time management.
- 2.8 Make healthy and safe life choices.

**3. RESPONSIBILITY TO THE COMMUNITY**

All students will understand and model the important attributes that people must have to contribute to an effective and productive community and the common good of all. Students will:

- 3.1 Know and practice the duties, responsibilities, and rights of citizenship in a democratic society.
- 3.2 Be respectful and contributing participants in their school, community, country, and world.
- 3.3 Understand the purpose, role, and means of interaction with the different levels of government.

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