



2011-12 Handbook

A guide for FCPS parents, students, and staff members



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Overview

Fairfax County

- Area (square miles) 395
- Population (2008) 1,015,302

Schools and Centers (total) 194

- Elementary schools (K-6) 138
- Middle schools (6-8) 3
- Middle schools (7-8) 19
- Secondary schools (7-12) 4
- High schools (9-12) 21
- Alternative high schools 2
- Special education centers 7

Alternative Programs and Learning Centers 48

Projected Enrollment

- 2011-12 177,629
- Percentage of all Virginia students enrolled in FCPS 13.9%
- FCPS national ranking by enrollment 11th

Staff Positions—Full-Time

- 2011-12 22,779.6
 - ◆ School-Based: 92.9%
 - ◆ Nonschool-Based: 7.1%

School Operating Budget

- 2011-12 \$2.2 billion

Average Cost per Student

- 2011-12 \$12,820

Communication Between School and Home

Communication Tools

FCPS is committed to providing parents with regular news and information about issues that may affect their children at either the school system level or the individual school level. FCPS provides information in many ways, such as:

FCPS Website

The FCPS website—www.fcps.edu—provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date information available.

Keep in Touch

FCPS has an electronic mass notification system known as Keep in Touch (KIT). KIT has two services: KIT Basic (automatic enrollment) and KIT Plus (subscription).

- KIT Basic automatically enrolls parents and employees because it draws contact information from the student and staff information systems. FCPS central offices and schools use KIT Basic to provide families and employees with three types of messages—attendance (an automated calling system that calls and e-mails parents the same day an absence occurs), emergency (school closings and delays), and outreach—via e-mails and phone calls. It is important that parents keep their child's emergency contact information up-to-date with the school.
- KIT Plus is a service—provided via e-mail—for parents, students, community members, and citizens who want news, events, and updates from FCPS. Subscribers may also sign up to receive such information from up to five schools of their choice.

For more information, go to www.fcps.edu/kit.

Cable TV

Fairfax County Public Schools operates three open cable TV channels—21, 25, and 99. Funded by franchise fees paid by cable operators, these channels provide residents news and information about the schools, emergency messages, curriculum programming, and more. Flagship channel Red Apple 21 offers a block of shows all about FCPS—including *SchoolScene*, *Insight*, and *In Other Words*—that begins every day at 5:30 p.m. Red Apple 21 is also webcast live 24-7 at www.fcps.edu. In addition, FCPS operates three closed channels—85, 86, and 87—that can be viewed only in FCPS facilities.

Many FCPS TV stories have been videostreamed (made available for viewing online) and can be found at www.fcps.edu. A program guide, *Fine Tuning*, is also available online.

FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard)

This online resource allows FCPS to extend learning beyond the traditional school day and beyond school facilities. Students, parents, and teachers are invited to use FCPS 24-7 Learning to access homework and classroom assignments, view class calendars, and explore links to enrichment activities. Parents are encouraged to register for their own Parent View account to see all their children's courses, emergency care forms, and Family Connection for middle and high school in one place. For more information, go to <http://fcps.blackboard.com>.

Familygram

An electronic newsletter e-mailed to parents and families of FCPS students four times a year and is also available on the FCPS website.

Communication Between School and Home

Media Relations

FCPS regularly communicates with the many local television and radio stations and newspapers in the greater Washington, D.C., area that provide information to residents about the school system.

Social Media

Fairfax County Public Schools is on Facebook, where news and information, emergency messages, and information about current issues are posted for those who choose to become fans of the school system. To follow FCPS on Facebook, visit www.facebook.com/fcpsva and select Like at the top of the page. FCPS is also on Twitter; to follow FCPS on Twitter, visit www.twitter.com/fcpsnews and click on Follow. In addition, FCPS has expanded its use of social media tools, adding YouTube and Flickr. Parents, students, employees, and citizens can view videos featured on Channel 21 on YouTube. The FCPS Flickr account features photos from the schools with a focus on events and activities featuring students. To reach either of these sites, go to www.fcps.edu and click on their icons in the top right corner.

Backpack Letters

When needed, these letters are sent home with elementary and middle school students—to keep parents informed about breaking news at an individual school—by the principal, the administrative staff, classroom teachers, and other staff members. Backpack letters may also be sent by e-mail through the Keep in Touch system.

School Newsletters

Many schools produce their own newsletters to provide regular information about upcoming events, important dates, ways to get involved and volunteer, classroom updates, tips on helping one's child succeed in school, and messages from school

staff members. Newsletters may be sent home with students or may be sent by e-mail through the Keep in Touch system.

Parent Liaisons

Parent liaisons are available in most FCPS schools to help parents better understand the school system and advocate for their children's education. Parent liaisons are often bilingual and promote communication between the home and the school to increase family involvement and support student achievement. Parents may call the school that their child attends to obtain contact information for the liaison(s). **Bilingual community liaisons** are available at the Dunn Loring, South County, and Lake Anne-Reston registration sites to provide families with information about school and community services. For more general FCPS information and help in finding resources in their child's school and in the community, parents may call the Parent Information Line and leave a message. Parents will receive a return phone call within 24 hours, Monday through Friday. Arabic: 571-423-4952; Chinese: 571-423-4953; Farsi: 571-423-4954; Korean: 571-423-4951; Spanish: 571-423-4950; Urdu: 571-423-4955; Vietnamese: 571-423-4956.

Communications and Community Outreach

The Department of Communications and Community Outreach provides information about the schools to parents, school employees, community members, and businesses; keeps school employees informed about the community they serve; and is the school system's public response center. For information about any school system issue, call 571-423-1200 or go to www.fcps.edu.

School Calendar

School Calendar 2011-12

September 6	School begins*
October 10.....	Columbus Day holiday
November 4	First grading period ends*+
November 7-8.....	Student holidays
November 23	Students released two hours early
November 24-25.....	Thanksgiving break
December 23-January 2	Winter break
January 16.....	Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday holiday
January 27.....	Second grading period ends*+
January 30-31	Student holidays
February 20	Washington's birthday holiday#
March 30.....	Third grading period ends*+
April 2-6	Spring break
April 9	Student holiday
May 28.....	Memorial Day holiday
June 14.....	Graduations on or after this date*
June 19	Last day of school*+#N

* Schools are open.

+ Report cards are provided to parents at the end of each grading period and at the end of the school year.

Date subject to change if more than three school days are lost because of inclement weather.

N Early release on the last official day of school.

Makeup Days

Days Missed	Makeup Days
1, 2, and 3	Will not be made up
4	February 20
5	April 9
6	Will not be made up
7	June 20
8	Will not be made up
9	June 21
10	Will not be made up

For more information on the school calendar, go to www.fcps.edu/cal.htm.

School Hours

By state mandate, the school day is:

- 3 hours for kindergarten.
- 5.5 hours plus a lunch period for grades 1-12.*

The Office of Transportation Services works in concert with school principals to develop the start and end times for each school so as to provide effective service while controlling the need for resources. Bell schedules must subsequently be approved by the Superintendent of Schools.

***Note:** Elementary schools close early on Mondays to provide time for staff development, instructional planning, and teacher conferences with parents and students. This time is made up during the rest of the week. Parents are informed of operating schedules through their schools.

School Schedule Changes

Inclement weather or other school emergencies (such as power failures or extreme temperatures) may result in closing, delayed opening, or early dismissal of schools or a change in schedule for adult education classes. If this happens:

- Emergency closing messages are sent out by e-mail to subscribers to the Keep in Touch e-mail notification system. To sign up for these messages, go to www.fcps.edu and click on Keep in Touch.
- Radio and TV stations, including cable Channel 21 (a channel programmed by the school system), carry the news as soon as such decisions are made.
- This information is displayed on the school system home page: www.fcps.edu.
- Information is also posted on the FCPS Facebook and Twitter pages.
- Parents and students are urged not to call schools or administrative offices for this information.



FCPS schools are open unless information is posted or sent that indicates schools are closed, opening late, or closing early. Decisions on whether to close schools are not taken lightly. All decisions take the safety of all FCPS children into account. FCPS relies on information from emergency management and state highway administrators about conditions **for all roads**—not just major highways. FCPS personnel assigned to different regions of the county go out and inspect the conditions of roads, sidewalks, and FCPS parking lots and bus lanes. The Superintendent also confers with other area school systems before announcing a decision.

Note: To learn more about how FCPS administrators decide to delay or close schools during inclement weather, check out a short video that is available online by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Emergency.

In order to be prepared for an unanticipated change in schedule, working parents need to make advance arrangements regarding where their children should go in case of an early closing.

When schools are closed for the day, the following will apply:

- FCPS' goal is to make a decision by 5 a.m. and to begin communicating the decision at that time.
- Extracurricular activities, interscholastic contests, team practices, field trips, middle school after-school programs, adult and community education classes, professional learning and training courses, recreation programs, and community use in schools and on school grounds are canceled.
- School Age Child Care (SACC) centers are closed.

School Calendar

When schools are opened two hours late, the following will apply:

- If it is on Monday, elementary schools (which usually close early on Mondays) will close at their usual Tuesday-through-Friday time.
- Morning preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) classes are canceled. Full-day preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) classes start two hours later than the regular schedule. Afternoon preschool (special education) starts on the regular schedule.
- Morning field trips are canceled.
- Morning transportation for high school academy classes is canceled.
- School Age Child Care (SACC) centers will be open by 8 a.m. when possible.
- Adult and community education classes will start on time.

When schools are closed two hours early due to worsening weather conditions during the day, the following will apply:

- FCPS' goal is to make a decision by 10 a.m. and to begin communicating the decision at that time.
- Elementary schools will close two hours earlier than the usual Tuesday-through-Friday time.
- Morning preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) programs are dismissed at approximately 11 a.m. Full-day preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) classes are dismissed two hours earlier than the regular schedule. Afternoon preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) classes are canceled.

- Extended day care and School Age Child Care (SACC) centers will stay open until 6:15 p.m.
- Extracurricular activities, interscholastic contests, team practices, field trips, middle school after-school programs, adult and community education classes, professional learning and training courses, and recreation programs in schools and on school grounds are canceled.



School Directory

Detailed information about individual schools is available from each school and in School Profiles, which can be accessed at the FCPS website, www.fcps.edu. Free access to the Internet is available at Fairfax County public libraries.

The schools are organized into eight clusters, each comprising three to four high schools and their feeder elementary and middle schools. A list of phone numbers for each cluster assistant superintendent can be found on page 34.

Note: To determine which schools serve your particular address, go to <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary> or call the Fairfax County Public Schools automated voice recognition system at 703-329-9831. If you have questions concerning boundary information, please call the boundary information phone line at 571-423-2330 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

School Ranking

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) does not rank its schools. All FCPS schools and centers share a level of excellence that has earned the school system a national reputation for high student achievement. Among the factors that make FCPS one of the top school systems in the nation are:

- Talented and committed teachers and support personnel, as evidenced by the increasing number of FCPS teachers with the prestigious National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification.
- Excellent curriculum designed to meet and exceed state standards and federal guidelines.

- Appropriately planned, designed, constructed, and operated facilities along with the technology and equipment that are necessary to promote learning and collaboration. All classrooms are wired for Internet connectivity.
- Honors and awards earned by individual students and groups annually in all academic, extracurricular, and athletic areas in regional, state, and national competitions.

While all Fairfax County schools share the same commitment to excellence, each school has a unique learning culture. Some offer specialized programs—such as world languages partial immersion at the elementary level and the International Baccalaureate program at the secondary level. Each school reflects the community that surrounds it.

Use of Facilities

FCPS encourages the use of school facilities by community groups. To submit a request online, go to www.fcps.edu and click on Community. The website also contains additional information about community use of facilities. For questions, contact the Community Use Section at 571-423-2340.



Starting School

Starting School in Fairfax County Public Schools

Whether you are new to Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) because your child has just reached school age or because you are new to the area, FCPS is pleased to have the opportunity to serve you.

To help you prepare for your child's entrance into Fairfax County Public Schools, here is some information about the school system's prekindergarten-12 program.

Note: Additional information for kindergarten parents and for parents of older children new to FCPS can be found by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Parents.

Paving the Way to Kindergarten

Children entering kindergarten demonstrate a variety of learning behaviors. Behaviors that are indicators of kindergarten success include the following:

Oral Language, Reading, Writing

- Says his or her first name.
- Follows simple instructions.
- Begins to share thoughts and opinions.
- Answers simple questions.
- Listens to stories read each day.
- Recites some nursery rhymes.
- Retells a familiar event or story.
- Participates in word play (cat, fat, mat).
- Identifies some colors.
- Discusses a favorite story.
- Talks about pictures.
- Pretends to read a book.

- Identifies some letters in the alphabet.
- Writes his or her first name.
- Attempts writing by using scribbling or marks that resemble print.

Mathematics

- Shows awareness of shapes in the environment.
- Begins to match objects (socks, shoes, mittens, gloves).
- Begins to notice similarities and differences.
- Shows awareness of sorting and classifying objects.
- Uses math language (bigger and smaller).
- Attempts to play counting games.
- Attempts to count to ten.
- Touches or points at objects when counting.
- Begins to compare objects by size.

Social and Emotional

- Sometimes makes choices.
- Begins to take turns.
- Uses self-help skills (dressing, toileting, eating).
- Begins to share with others.
- Frequently uses self-control.
- Helps with chores at home.
- Begins to demonstrate independence.
- Frequently completes tasks with adult assistance.
- Begins to show self-confidence.
- Sometimes tries new things.
- Expresses thoughts and feelings.

Physical

- Runs, marches, gallops, or jumps.
- Throws and catches a ball.
- Alternates feet when walking up steps.
- Attempts to button and zip.
- Assembles easy puzzles.
- Uses crayons.

The Typical Kindergarten Day

A kindergarten day includes a balance of large-group, small-group, individual, and center learning experiences, as well as many opportunities for movement, active play, and hands-on investigations. Students participate in activities offered to other primary-grade children, such as library, art, music, and physical education (PE) classes. Each day also includes snack and lunch time.

Registering Your Child for School

- Children who are five by September 30 are eligible to enter kindergarten that school year. Parents of younger children can find resources through the FCPS early childhood program by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Parents.
- A child who will be six years old on or before September 30 must attend school.
- A qualifying parent may elect to provide home instruction for his or her school-age child in lieu of school attendance. More information is available by calling 571-423-4460 or by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Parents.
- All kindergarten programs are full-day and housed in FCPS elementary schools.
- Most FCPS elementary schools offer grades K-6, most middle schools offer grades 7-8, and all high schools offer grades 9-12. Exceptions are noted in school profiles available by going to <http://commweb.fcps.edu/schoolprofile> and typing in the name of the school.

Registration Procedures

- Determine which school your child will attend. The FCPS boundary locator service provides the names of the elementary, middle, and high schools assigned to each home in the county. To access the service by telephone, call 703-329-9831 and follow the instructions, or visit <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary>.

- Contact your child's school to make arrangements for enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together in late March or early April for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many schools host an orientation or open house.
- You will need to register your child at the school he or she will attend. To enroll a student, the following are required:
 - ◆ The presence of a parent or legal guardian. (A photo ID may be requested.)
 - ◆ Birth certificate.
 - ◆ Proof of residency in Fairfax County, generally a lease or a deed.
 - ◆ Transfer slip or report card from the previous school and/or original transcripts.
 - ◆ Certificate of a recent (within 12 months) physical examination by a licensed physician for a student being admitted for the first time into elementary school. A transfer student entering elementary school must provide either a record of a physical exam completed prior to enrolling in the previous school or a record of a physical exam completed within the past 12 months.
 - ◆ Evidence of a negative tuberculin skin test or a normal chest X-ray administered within 90 days for any student who has resided in a foreign country (with the exceptions of Canada, Western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand) during the last five years for a consecutive period of five or more months.
 - ◆ Evidence of required immunizations: Virginia law requires students to be immunized against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, and hepatitis B. Students born on or after January 1, 1997, are required to have been immunized against chicken pox. Effective October 1, 2008, immunization against human papillomavirus will be required for female students entering

sixth grade. Students who lack required documentation of immunizations may be barred from attendance. Detailed information about immunization requirements is available in FCPS Regulation 2101. Objections based on religious grounds may be discussed with the principal.

- Registration forms are available online by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Forms on the left-hand side.

Many Programs Available at the Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services

Fairfax County Public Schools Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services provides a variety of programs, resources, and services for parents in one convenient location. The Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services is accessible by Fairfax Connector, Metrobus, and Metrorail (Orange Line: Dunn Loring-Merrifield station) and is located at 2334 Gallows Road in Dunn Loring.

The FCPS offices that are based at Dunn Loring and the services they offer include:

Student Registration

Student Registration, 703-204-6740, provides school enrollment for:

- Students whose home languages are other than or in addition to English. (Multilingual registrars are available to help families with limited English proficiency.)
- Foreign exchange students and students requiring I-20 student visas.
- All students whose natural parents or legally adoptive parents do not reside in Fairfax County.
- Tuition-paying students.
- Students in foster care placed by other Virginia counties or by out-of-state agencies.
- Tuition is charged for students whose parents do not live in Fairfax County. Contact Student Registration at 703-204-6744 for enrollment of nonresident students.

- FCPS has implemented procedures for the enrollment of homeless students. Parents or guardians of families experiencing homelessness may contact Student Registration at 703-204-6744 or any Fairfax County public school for enrollment assistance.

Note: Additional Student Registration sites are located at:

11484 Washington Plaza, West, Suite 310,
Reston, VA 20190

South County Government Center
8350 Richmond Hwy., Suite 123
Alexandria VA 22309

For more information, go to www.fcps.edu and click on Parents.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Assessment

If a language other than or in addition to English is spoken in the home, the student's English skills (in reading, writing, listening, and speaking) are assessed at the time of enrollment. Results of this assessment and review of the student's academic records determine the level of English language proficiency of each student. Students who have limited English proficiency are provided ESOL services as part of their instructional programs.

For more information, contact ESOL assessment at 703-204-4368 or go to www.fcps.edu and click on Parents.

Family and School Partnerships

Family and School Partnerships promotes student success in school and in life through:

- Parenting classes, FCPS orientations, in-school parent liaisons, and other parenting resources for families.

- Training, resources, and professional development workshops for FCPS staff members, community members, and visiting professionals.
- Bilingual community liaisons, who meet with parents—as part of the student registration process—to provide information about the school system and the individual school(s) the child(ren) will attend. Community liaisons also inform parents about and connect them with applicable resources available at the school(s) and in the community.

For more information, call 703-204-4300 or go to www.fcps.edu and click on Parents.

Parent Resource Center for Special Education

The FCPS Parent Resource Center promotes parent awareness of the services provided by Fairfax County Public Schools for children with special needs and their families. The center and team encourage parent participation in the educational decision-making process and provide a yearlong training program and information to foster the parent-professional partnership. The center also serves as a resource for educators and the community. Under the direction of the manager of the Parent Resource Center, the staff provides information, consultation, and support on:

- FCPS special education and related services and community resources.
- a referral network to meet individual needs (educational, transitional, vocational, recreational, health, etc.).
- rules, regulations, and procedures that affect families of children with special needs.
- the complex issues of parenting a child with special needs.
- positive parental involvement and student outcomes.
- parent support groups and local and national organizations.

- specific disabilities and other topics related to individuals with disabilities.
- a resource library containing 4,000 books, DVDs, CDs, periodicals, and publications.

For more information, call 703-204-3941 or go to www.fcps.edu and click on Parents.

Family and Early Childhood Education Program (FECEP, Head Start, Early Head Start)

The Family and Early Childhood Education program (FECEP, Head Start, Early Head Start) is a free child development program for pregnant women and children aged birth to five years, including children with disabilities or special needs, from income-eligible families. Parents and community professionals work with program staff members to provide comprehensive services that address children's educational, social, health, nutritional, and emotional needs. Families can learn more about the program and apply for services at the Dunn Loring Center. For more information, call 703-204-4380.

Early Childhood Identification and Services (Child Find)

Fairfax County Public Schools Early Childhood Identification and Services is a resource for Fairfax County preschool children and their parents, providing services to help identify potential special education needs and educating the community about child development and the importance of early intervention. The Early Childhood Assessment teams provide free developmental screenings to children aged 20 months to 5 years who are Fairfax County or Fairfax City residents. The teams assess developmental skills in the areas of speech, language, fine and gross motor, social-emotional, vision, and hearing. A child whose screening reflects possible delays in these areas may be referred for additional comprehensive evaluations and consideration for special education services. For further information, contact the Office of Special Education Instruction, PreK-12 at 571-423-4121.

What Every Family Needs to Know

Attendance

Present, Absent, or Tardy?

FCPS believes, and research has shown, that students who regularly attend school have the most academic success. Parents and school staff members can work together to encourage students to participate fully in the school program—by being present; arriving on time; and being connected, committed, and engaged in the learning process.

A student's lack of attendance can affect academic, social, and emotional growth. Grading is based on work performance and class participation, and classwork can still be used to determine grades. It is difficult to "make up" missed work and classroom activities. To achieve academic success, students must be present, actively learning, and developing critical skills.

FCPS will excuse a student's tardiness or absence due to:

- illness of the student (a physician's note may be required in cases of chronic or long-term illness).
- death in the family.
- medical appointment.
- observance of a religious holiday.

Absence or tardiness for the following reasons will be unexcused:

- family trip.
- child care problem.
- oversleeping.
- nonschool-related activity.
- traffic.
- missed bus.

FCPS encourages family trips during scheduled school vacations and strongly discourages

such trips during the school year because these extended absences interrupt the continuity of learning. FCPS must withdraw any student from its enrollment who is absent from school for 15 consecutive days or more. Upon the student's return, a parent must again officially enroll him or her.

If your child is going to be either absent for the entire day or late for any reason, call your school's attendance line, which is available 24-7 for messages. If your elementary school child is not present when attendance is checked in the morning, FCPS' automated attendance calling system will phone and e-mail parents within the first hour. Attendance is checked for individual-period and all-day absences at 4 p.m. for your secondary school student, and the automated system will phone and e-mail parents at 7 p.m. if your student was not present.

For more information about school attendance and engagement, visit www.fcps.edu and click on Parents.

Transportation

Students arrive at school by bus, by walking, or by private car (Kiss and Ride and student drivers).

Bus

The school system owns and operates one of the nation's largest school bus fleets, consisting of 1,540 buses that transport more than 110,000 students to and from school each day. Bus service is provided for children who attend elementary school and live more than one mile from school, for secondary school children who live more than one and a half miles from school, and for children of any age in cases where walking is unusually hazardous. Schedules for bus riders are mailed to each student or are available to parents at each school prior to the opening of school.

What Every Family Needs to Know

All kindergarten students who are eligible for bus transportation are transported by bus, along with students in other grades in the morning and/or afternoon. Those kindergarten students who are not eligible for bus transportation will walk in the morning and afternoon.

All kindergarten students riding regular afternoon school buses are to be met at their bus stop by

- parent,
- guardian, or
- student in 7th grade or higher.

If the kindergarten student is not met, the driver is to ask that the FCPS transportation office notify the school of the student's return and provide an estimated return time.

Bus riders should follow these guidelines:

- Refrain from crossing or playing on private property.
- Cooperate with the safety patrols and obey the bus drivers.
- Arrive at the bus stop five to ten minutes before the scheduled pickup time.
- Remain seated and talk quietly after boarding the bus.

For answers to questions regarding specific student transportation situations, call the appropriate transportation section:

- Local school.
- Lorton Center (main office), 703-446-2000.
- Training center, 703-714-5665.
- After-hours emergency number, 571-423-2000.

Walking

Younger walkers are encouraged to travel to and from school with older children from their neighborhoods. The PTA student directory available in the school office is a resource should parents need to contact neighborhood families. At some schools, crossing guards help walkers at

intersections near the school. Parents may also meet their children at the school at dismissal time to walk home with them.

Walking students are encouraged to use designated paths or sidewalks where safety patrols are stationed.

Car

Each FCPS school has a designated Kiss and Ride area that is used by parents who drop off and/or pick up their children. Kiss and Ride procedures are provided to enrolling families at the start of each school year. For safety reasons, parents are asked not to discharge students anywhere else on the school property.

Virginia state law forbids the passing of a school bus that is loading or unloading children; this law applies on school grounds, too. If you are picking up your child from the school office, please park in a visitor space rather than leave your car unattended along the yellow curb in front of the school. This area must remain free for fire and emergency vehicles.

Student Parking at Schools

High school students may purchase parking permits at their schools. Contact the school directly for more information. Rates are set by the School Board. Age or other restrictions may apply. Students who choose to park at schools or on city or county streets do so at their own risk.

More Information

The FCPS Office of Transportation Services offers resources and safety information for students traveling to and from school on its website, available by going to www.fcps.edu, and clicking on Parents.

Before- and After-School Care— School Age Child Care

School Age Child Care (SACC) is a program, of the Fairfax County Office for Children, for children attending elementary school. The program

What Every Family Needs to Know

accommodates families in which all adults in the home are either working, attending school, or disabled. The program provides professional care for children attending kindergarten through sixth grade and is offered at most elementary schools. Fees are based on gross household income. (Please Note: This program is run by the Fairfax County government, **NOT** Fairfax County Public Schools.)

SACC operates school-year, summer, winter, and spring programs. During the school year, children may enroll in separate sessions:

- Before school.
- After school.
- Summer and winter and spring holiday sessions are offered at consolidated sites.

Call the Office for Children at 703-449-8989 to receive information or to enroll. Information is also available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc/sacc.htm.

Recreation and Park Authority

The Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services schedules athletic programs in schools and on school grounds after school hours, on weekends, and during vacation periods. For more information, call 703-324-4FUN(4386).

The Fairfax County Park Authority conducts classes throughout the year and summer Rec-Pac in schools. For more information, call 703-222-4664.

Food and Nutrition Services

A variety of nutritious lunches and à la carte offerings are served by 1,300 food service employees to about 145,000 school customers each day in every school. School meals are planned by registered dietitians and chefs to reflect the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and student preferences as determined at student taste parties. Strict federal nutrient guidelines limit total fat and saturated fats and include whole grain products. FCPS also limits trans fats, sodium, and sugar and purchases

locally grown seasonal fruits and vegetables when available. For daily menus, check cable television (Channel 21) or go to www.fcps.edu and click on Lunch Menus on the left-hand side.

Breakfast is available in selected schools and begins on September 8. Check to see if breakfast is available at your school. Requests for food substitutions for students with special dietary needs, such as allergies, require a statement from a medical authority. The list of ingredients for all food items served in the school cafeterias is available on the website. Nutrient information for food items served is posted in school cafeterias.

FCPS and Childhood Obesity

Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) has the philosophy that “we talk nutrition, serve nutrition, and teach nutrition.” FNS believes the secret to resolving the current obesity issue is a partnership between students, parents, the school community, government, and manufacturers. Since students only eat one to two meals per day in their school cafeterias and school meals are nutritious, the program should not be labeled a cause of childhood obesity. FNS strives to teach students about the importance of making good food choices both in the classroom and with the variety of daily meal options.

FCPS believes parents are role models for their children. Parents should provide their children with healthful snacks, less candy and fewer soft drinks, less time in front of the television or computer, and at least 60 minutes of exercise each day.

Student Account Balances

Students will have the same student cafeteria personal identification numbers (PINs) when they return to school each year. For students who will be going to a different school in the fall, the cafeteria PIN number and account balance will automatically move to the new school with them.

Meal Purchases

Parents may purchase breakfast and lunch for their children by the month, week, or day. Parents may specify how payments are to be used by their children—meals only or meals and à la carte. A printed summary of a child's account is available from the food service manager for signing on with **myLunchMoney.com**. You do not need to use this account for this service.

- **Online**—Using **www.myLunchMoney.com**. A convenience fee applies each time a payment is added.
- **Check**—Make checks payable to (School Name) Food Services and bring the check to the food service manager's office.
- **Cash**—Cash may be brought to the food service manager's office for deposit on a student's account, or a student may pay cash on a daily basis.

Free and Reduced-Price Meals

Free and reduced-price lunches are available, to students unable to pay the full price of menus, according to criteria based on household size and income. Applications are mailed to all households in August. Applications translated into Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Farsi, Urdu, and Arabic are available in schools.

Health Information

Annual Health Screening

Vision and hearing screening of all kindergartners, third graders, seventh graders, tenth graders, and newly enrolled Fairfax County students is conducted each fall by the public health nurse, the school health aide, and health room volunteers. This is only a brief screening; parents should continually be alert to identify vision or hearing

difficulties that indicate need for examination by a specialist.

Health Services

Health services in the school, including the administration of medication and basic care to sick and injured students, are performed by the school health aide and office staff members. According to state regulations, the health room staff may provide care only for minor illnesses and injuries. If the student's condition requires more attention, the parent will be contacted.

Medication at School

Students may take medication at school, under strict adult supervision and in accordance with School Board Regulation 2102. Forms authorizing the school to administer medication are available in the school office or online and must be completed prior to medications being given. With a parent or guardian's signature and a physician's signature, prescription medication may be stored in the health room and given as directed throughout the school year. With a parent or guardian's signature only, over-the-counter pain relievers for muscle aches, headaches, orthodontic pain, and menstrual cramps may be stored in the health room and administered at school. Any other over-the-counter medications may be given for up to ten consecutive school days with the parent or guardian's signature. Beyond ten days, a physician's signature is required.

Medication Guidelines

- Parents and guardians must transport medications to and from the school health room. With parent or guardian approval, a high school student may carry an over-the-counter medication from home directly to the school health room.
- Your child must have the first dose of any new medication at home.

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- A parent or guardian must personally collect any unused portion of the medication. Medications not claimed will be destroyed when the order expires or at the end of each school year.
- A parent or guardian is responsible for submitting a new form to the school any time the dosage is changed or the time at which the medication is to be taken is changed. The medication label must match the authorization form.

Health Care Plans

Parents or guardians enrolling a student with a health condition, health-related need, or specific health care procedure that affects the school day should contact the principal or school public health nurse so that a health care plan can be discussed.

When to Stay Home

Students with symptoms such as rashes, watery and inflamed eyes, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea should stay home until a doctor evaluates their symptoms and determines whether or not they are contagious. The Fairfax County Department of Health recommends that children remain home fever-free for 24 hours after an illness prior to returning to school.

To limit the spread of illnesses, notify the school office if your child gets head lice, strep throat, chicken pox, or other contagious illnesses.

Taking Your Child Home

Our school health rooms work to control and manage student exposure to contagious diseases and will call you if your child exhibits symptoms of illness.

We ask that you make arrangements to pick up your child as soon as possible after receiving such a call. It is important to have all emergency numbers up-to-date in case we need to contact you. Anyone picking up your child must show identification.

Returning to School

Some rashes, pink eye, impetigo, ringworm, and scabies can be passed from one student to another. To protect all FCPS students, the school system requires a note from a physician for any child with symptoms of these illnesses. The note must state that the child is not contagious before he or she can return to school.

Food Allergies at School

To provide a safe educational environment for a student with severe food allergies, schools, parents and guardians, physicians, and the student must work together. The school public health nurse will work with the family and the physician to develop an individualized health care plan for the student. Parents or guardians enrolling a student with severe allergies should contact the school principal or the school public health nurse as early as possible so that a safe plan can be instituted.

More information on the school health program can be found by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Parents.

Fairfax County Health Department

The goal of the Fairfax County Health Department is to protect public health and the environment in which we live. Services include:

- Immunizations against diseases such as hepatitis B, varicella, measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, polio, diphtheria, and pertussis.
- Case management for high-risk children and families.
- Services for children with specific health care needs (neurology, cystic fibrosis, eye surgery, orthopedic).
- Primary health care for low-income, uninsured county residents (pediatric care).
- Dental services for children.

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- Vision screenings and examinations.
- Referral for other services within the county.

For more information, visit the Health Department website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd or call 703-246-2411 (TDY 703-591-6435).

Safe Schools Are Important in FCPS

FCPS operates a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week security force. Security personnel:

- provide daytime security patrol of elementary and middle schools and nighttime patrol of all FCPS buildings.
- work closely with the Fairfax County police and conduct building security inspections and assessments.
- serve as the central communications center after normal business hours and can be reached at 571-423-2000.
- help principals develop and evaluate critical incident and security plans.

FCPS is committed to doing all that it can reasonably do to limit harm to students, to staff members, to visitors, and to school system buildings. Parents are encouraged to visit the Emergency Preparedness and Support page by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Emergency.

It is important to know emergency response terminology. Below are descriptions of the emergency response terms used by FCPS. Parents are encouraged to retain this list for future reference.

- **Secure the Building**—Secure the building is used if the threat is outside the building (example, a robbery near the school). Outside activities are canceled; all exterior doors are secured while staff members and students are free to move about inside their building.

- **Shelter in Place**—Shelter-in-place procedures are used to temporarily separate people from a hazardous outdoor atmosphere, such as in a hazmat incident. The building is secured (as described above), and measures are taken to shut down the intake of outside air. No one is allowed to enter the school until public safety officials give the “all clear.”

- **Lockdown**—Lockdown is used to describe enhanced security measures taken to protect against potentially violent intruders who have entered the school.

- **Stay Put, Stay Tuned**—Stay put, stay tuned is implemented at the request of public safety officials to limit the impact of an event on the transportation infrastructure. This response may be appropriate during large-scale events that require limitations on movement and transportation. Normal end-of-day release will not occur until authorized by public safety officials. Parents are allowed to “check out” their students from school when this is implemented.

The Security Section of the Office of Safety and Security continues to work with schools to maintain and promote safe and secure learning environments. Employees in OSS work closely with local, state, and federal public safety officials concerning safety and security issues.

Questions, comments, and suggestions are always welcome. Contact the Office of Safety and Security at 571-423-2010.



Parent Advocacy

You Are Your Child's Best Advocate

Family involvement plays a critical role in preparing students to succeed in school and in life. Fairfax County Public Schools encourages all parents to be advocates for their children by providing them with a safe, nurturing home environment; building strong, positive relationships with school staff members; and staying engaged in their children's learning and development. From preschool through high school, your child depends on you to be an involved, strong, and constant advocate. You play a key role at every stage of your child's development by:

- Sharing information with your child's teacher about his or her strengths, interests, and goals.
- Monitoring the development of your child's English and second language literacy.
- Identifying resources to help your child develop mathematic competencies to take advantage of rigorous academic courses in middle and high school.
- Staying involved and engaged both at home and at school to make sure your child comes to school and enrolls in the necessary classes to meet his or her postsecondary goals.

How to Be an Advocate

The road to college, post high school training, and a career starts before kindergarten. To help your child succeed at all levels, it is important to begin planning early. It has been shown that:

- Quality preschool and daycare programs increase a child's school success in later grades.
- Participation in challenging academic, enrichment, and support programs improves a child's academic achievement and chances for college admission.
- Active parent involvement during all phases of a student's education leads to greater success in all aspects of his or her life.

Students with parents or guardians who are involved in their education—both at home and at school—earn higher grades, have fewer disciplinary problems, and enjoy better social adjustment. To help your child make sure he or she gets the most value from FCPS programs and resources:

1. Attend events—Back-to-School Nights, orientations, student performances, family programs, and parent workshops.
2. Support and participate in your child's school—join parent organizations, mentor, volunteer, and serve on committees.
3. Communicate with your child's school—regular check-ins with your child's teacher, parent-teacher conferences, parent liaisons, community liaisons, newsletters, and home visits.

Advocating for Your Child From the Beginning

Children are capable of amazing intellectual development during the first years of their life. Mainly, they learn by watching what their parents or guardians and siblings do. Almost anything your family does together is a learning opportunity for your child. Read a book, in any language to encourage an interest in reading, especially when you ask your child questions about the story. Discuss normal activities, such as a trip to the store, to increase his or her language skills.

Advocating at home:

- Build awareness:
 - ◆ Create an interesting and stimulating environment.
 - ◆ Introduce your child to new objects, people, and events.
 - ◆ Respond to your child's interests and share experiences.
 - ◆ Show interest and enthusiasm when talking with your child.

- Encourage exploration:
 - ◆ Encourage your child to explore different things.
 - ◆ Extend play into a learning opportunity.
 - ◆ Describe your child’s activities as he or she does them.
 - ◆ Use open-ended questions, such as, “What else could you do?”
- Ask and answer questions:
 - ◆ Help your child think through questions and develop possible answers.
 - ◆ Give your child information when asked.
 - ◆ Help your child connect ideas.
 - ◆ Allow time for your child to ask or answer a series of questions.
- Read and review information that comes home from the school—welcome letters, information packets, school calendars, newsletters, and handbooks.
- Set clear rules for behavior at school and at home.
- Limit television viewing and monitor what your child is exposed to through the use of electronic media (such as cell phones, the Internet, and video games).
- Attend Back-to-School Night and Curriculum Night to find out what your child’s teachers expect from you and your child and to learn about the curriculum.
- Set high expectations for your child to graduate from high school and continue his or her education by setting realistic goals and establishing plans to achieve them.
- Monitor your child’s progress and regularly check his or her agenda for homework and class assignments.
- Learn how to access FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) for homework, class assignments, calendars, and school activities. Go to <http://fcps.blackboard.com>.
- Ask teachers about their expectations and develop a joint plan of action. It is important to share information about your child and work with the teacher as a team.
- Contact the school counselor to learn about academic programs (such as language immersion, Young Scholars, etc.), support programs (such as mentoring, tutoring, etc.), and information about the transition to middle school.
- Request interpreters if needed for scheduled meetings and other communications. Many school documents are available in English and other languages.
- Visit the school’s parent center. Many schools have a special room for parents to meet, plan school activities, and work on classroom projects, or just

Advocating for Your Child in Elementary School

Parents and guardians have both responsibilities and rights. Their first responsibility is to develop a partnership with their children’s teachers and schools and participate in decisions about their children’s education. They are also responsible for making sure their children attend school and follow school and school system rules and policies.

School personnel are responsible for protecting children’s health and safety, and ensuring that they are treated fairly and not subject to discrimination. It is important for parents and guardians to share information about their children and discuss their expectations and goals.

How to be an advocate for your elementary school age child:

- Make sure your child gets enough sleep at night (10-11 hours per night are recommended for elementary school-age children) and starts the day with a healthful breakfast. Children learn better when they are well-rested and well-fed.

share conversation, discuss school information, and become involved in the school.

- Make contact with your school's parent liaison. Parent liaisons can coordinate parent involvement activities and provide parent education.
- Get to know the key people in your child's school who can provide additional support and resources for you, your child, and your family when issues or concerns arise:
 - ◆ **Principal and assistant principal**—are responsible for overall school management and instruction.
 - ◆ **Classroom teacher**—is responsible for day-to-day instruction and is the first person to contact if you have issues or concerns.
 - ◆ **Office support staff members**—can help you get the information you need, including: registration, bus schedules, school lunches, immunizations, or attendance. The best time to reach them is in the middle of the day; they are busiest at the beginning and end of the day.
 - ◆ **Reading teacher**—works with classroom teachers and students to improve reading skills.
 - ◆ **School counselor**—provides academic, career, and personal and social development counseling. Counselors provide classroom lessons and meet with students individually and in small groups. The school counselor also conducts workshops for parents.
 - ◆ **Instructional assistants**—help teachers and students with daily instructional activities.
 - ◆ **Clinic room aide**—takes care of children when they become sick during the school day and provides medication to children at the direction of their parents and doctors.
 - ◆ **School psychologist**—provides diagnostic, evaluative, and support services to help children's learning and their social and emotional development and adjustment.

- ◆ **Social worker**—helps families through short-term counseling and can provide referrals to community agencies.

Advocating for Your Child in Middle School

Middle school can be initially overwhelming for some students and their parents. Friends have more influence, and boys and girls are noticing each other. To be most effective, parents need to stay engaged with their children and be aware of their friends and activities at school and in the community. Students choose middle school courses in the spring before grades 7 and 8 (and before grade 6 for some middle schools).

How to be an advocate for your middle school-age child:

- Attend Back-to-School Night and Curriculum Night to find out what your child's teachers expect from you and your child and to learn about the curriculum.
- Make sure your child is developing strong study skills by checking homework and his or her agenda to see if it is complete. If your child does not have homework, encourage him or her to write "no homework" in his or her agenda and to read for thirty minutes. You can use the FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) website to check assignments and send e-mails to teachers.
- Monitor your child's report card. If your child is not doing well academically, meet with your child's teacher and/or school counselor to create a plan for improvement. In addition you can attend the Touching Bases program in the fall and spring to meet with your child's teachers to discuss your child's academic progress.
- Support your child's interest in participating in extracurricular activities.
- Help your child select appropriate courses for the next school year and consult with your child's school counselor for additional information.

- View and approve your child’s Academic and Career Plan through the Family Connection website. Refer to page two for information on establishing your FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) account.
- Discuss matters regarding high school transition including course selection, career goals, graduation requirements, and postsecondary options.
- Join and participate in parent groups, such as the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).
- Take part in classroom activities by serving as a tutor or mentor, attending field trips, providing materials for special projects, helping with special events and programs, and calling other parents.
- Help your child to set realistic goals and establish plans to achieve them.
- Become knowledgeable about which classes or programs are available to your child by attending Curriculum Night and reviewing materials that your child’s school sends to you.

Advocating for Your Child in High School

Parents are often unsure how to be involved in their sons' or daughters' high school experience. Most parents are comfortable participating in their child's sports and extracurricular activities, but your teenage son or daughter may discourage you from closely monitoring his or her social activities and academic progress. However, as teens struggle for independence, they still need their parents to provide guidance and structure as they test their limits of maturity and decision-making.

How to be an advocate for your high school-age child:

- Attend Back-to-School Night to learn what your child will study during the school year and find out the overall curriculum plans and goals for each class.
- Help your child develop good study habits by checking to see that homework assignments and special projects are completed on time. Parents can use FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) to see their child’s homework and classroom assignments, view class calendars, and find out when important tests are scheduled.
- Monitor your child's use of electronic media such as the Internet, video games, etc., and help your child make good decisions about what he or she chooses for entertainment.
- Become involved in school and parent organizations.
- Help your child select appropriate classes for the next school year and consult with your child’s school counselor for additional information.
- Schedule an appointment with your child’s school counselor and career center specialist to discuss the transition beyond high school and learn more about careers, goal setting, and postsecondary opportunities, including college admissions and financial aid tools.
- View your child’s exploration of postsecondary career and educational opportunities through the Family Connection website. Features include career and college exploration, scholarships, and more. Refer to page two for information on establishing your FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) account.
- Help your child develop a résumé and gather personal references.
- Review your child’s records, tests, and career plans and make arrangements for your child to take necessary tests: PSAT, SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject, ACT, etc. Consult with your child’s counselor and career center specialist for more information about these testing programs.
- Help your child apply for jobs, college, or further training. Encourage your child to acquire part-time volunteer or job experiences to expand his or her skills and experiences.
- Attend career information programs, college fairs, or college night programs.
- If applying for financial aid, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon

Parent Advocacy

as possible after January 1 of your child's senior year. FAFSA is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

- When researching colleges, think about what academic and social support the college provides students throughout the college experience.
- Encourage your child to visit the high school career center website to explore career options and resources including college, career and technical school, military, or employment after high school by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Parents.

Adapted From: Advocacy Handbook for Parents. Fairfax County Public Schools, 2007. Produced by the Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee (MSAOC).

For additional information on parent involvement and school success, go to www.fcps.edu and click on Parents.

Resources to Help Parents and Students

- **Library catalog**—For students and parents at <http://libcat.fcps.edu>.
- **Parent resources**—Information about before- and after-school resources, bullying prevention, diploma requirements, Internet safety, testing information, tutors, and much more is available by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Parents.
- **Parenting classes**—Taught by professionals in English, Korean, and Spanish for family members and caregivers of infants through teens on issues related to discipline, communication, conflict resolution, family involvement, and school success. Classes are single and multisession, two to four hours long, and held throughout the year during the day, in the evening, and on some weekends. Fees and more information are available by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Parents, or by calling 703-204-4343.
- **Parent information line**—For general FCPS information and help in communicating with your child's school. Call and leave a message; you should receive a return phone call within 24 hours. Arabic: 571-423-4952; Chinese: 571-423-4953; Farsi: 571-423-4954; Korean: 571-423-4951; Spanish: 571-423-4950; Urdu: 571-423-4955; Vietnamese: 571-423-4956.
- **School Board advisory committees**—Review issues and advise the School Board; committees include Adult and Community Education, Advanced Academic Programs, Career and Technical Education, Family and Early Childhood Education program (FECEP)-Head Start, Human Relations, Minority Student Achievement Oversight, School Health, Students and Disabilities, and Title I. For more information, go to www.fcps.edu and click on School Board.
- **Subscription resources**—Online database services for research, student homework help, and extended learning that can be found by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Parents.
- **Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council (SPAC)**—Provides a direct connection between FCPS Superintendent Jack Dale and parents throughout the county. The SPAC is made up of PTA presidents from each FCPS school and meets four times a year to discuss education issues important to the community, such as the budget and testing. For more information, go to www.fcps.edu and click on Parents.
- **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) Admissions website**—Provides a comprehensive overview of the admissions process for prospective students. For more information about TJHSST, go to <http://information.tjhsst.edu/admissions>.

Students

Field Trips

During the school year, classes may take field trips that relate directly to the regular instructional program. Schools send permission slips home prior to the trip, and parents must return them to the school no later than the day before the scheduled trip. Schools cannot accept oral permission. All students must ride school-arranged transportation to and from the field trip destination. For safety and insurance reasons, younger siblings may not accompany chaperoning parents on field trips.

Opt-Out Forms Now Online Only

In its Annual Notice of Survey, Records, Curriculum, Privacy and Related Rights and Opt-Out Forms (Annual Notice), FCPS provides explanations of student and parent rights as well as forms that may be used to exercise opt-out choices. Two versions of the Annual Notice are available—a Grades K-8 version and Grades 9-12 version. Parents with children at different grade levels should read each applicable version of the Annual Notice because the notices and opt-out rights vary depending on the student's grade level.

Parents may access the complete Annual Notice opt-out booklet online by going to www.fcps.edu, clicking on Forms on the left-hand side, and scrolling down to Opt-Out booklets. Parents may also request a paper copy from the principal's office at their child's school. For those parents who wish to opt out, completed forms must be returned to the school.

Personal Property

FCPS does not assume responsibility for the personal property of students and does not purchase insurance for their property. Each school urges parents and students to carefully consider the type and value of property taken to school, especially items with monetary or sentimental value. Unidentified articles found in the school are placed in a designated location.

School Clothes

FCPS expects students to come to school dressed in proper attire for school activities. Clothing should fit, be neat and clean, and conform to standards of decency. FCPS does not permit:

- Clothing with improper language or images.
- Sagging or low-cut pants, low-cut necklines, tube tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, backless blouses or blouses with only ties in the back, and clothing constructed of see-through materials.
- Head coverings, such as scarves or bandannas, unless required for religious or medical reasons.

Tennis shoes or shoes designed to provide support, fit securely, and prevent injury are necessary for physical education classes and active recess play in the elementary schools.

Cell Phones

A student may possess a cell phone, but it must be turned off, out of sight, and used only with a principal's authorization. If this rule is not followed, the phone will be confiscated and returned only to the student's parent or guardian.

Fees

Textbooks are provided free of charge to all students, as is access to computers. FCPS charges a \$100 per-sport, per-student athletic administration fee (AAF) capped at a maximum of two athletic fees per student, per year to participate in Virginia High School League (VHSL) sports. The AAF will be waived for students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals. The funds collected from the AAF will directly support the student activities and athletics program.

A fee, which is determined annually, is charged for the behind-the-wheel phase of driver education. Other fees may be charged for:

Students

- towel services.
- gym clothes.
- musical instrument repair.
- loss of or damage to School Board property.
- transcripts of student records.
- enrichment materials.
- extracurricular activities such as athletic events, plays, and field trips.
- student drivers to park on high school campuses.

Insurance

Optional student accident insurance plans are available at low cost. Policies offered include school-time accident insurance, 24-hour accident insurance, football accident insurance, and dental accident insurance.

Informational materials are distributed to each school by the beginning of the school year and are available by contacting Markel Corporation at 1-800-431-1270.

Fairfax County offers several affordable child health care programs. Each program has its own requirements. Information is available by contacting the Fairfax County Department of Family Services at 703-324-7500 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/ss/freelowcost.htm.

Noncustodial Parents

A noncustodial parent has the same rights as a custodial parent to review student records and other school information. After submitting a written request, the parent may review or receive copies of information in his or her child's student records. A reasonable charge may be imposed to cover postage and photocopying costs. In the case of requests for school system records other than student records, reasonable charges may also be imposed under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to cover the cost of accessing, duplicating, supplying, or searching.

Noncustodial parents who want to have notice of school events will find that much of this information is available on school websites and through the Keep in Touch service. Requests to have copies of such notices provided by mail will be honored if the administrative resources of the school allow. A reasonable charge for postage and photocopying costs may be imposed.

Noncustodial parents are welcome to participate in events at the school such as lunches with the children, classroom visits, teacher conferences, and school productions. More specific information about the rights of custodial, joint custodial, and noncustodial parents may be found in the current version of FCPS Regulation 2240.

Student Activities and Athletics

Fairfax County Public Schools offers opportunities at the secondary level for growth and enrichment through athletics, student government, performing groups, publications, honor societies, and special interest groups. For further information, contact the student activities office at each high school or call 571-423-1260.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Fairfax County Public Schools has specific student conduct rules that are reviewed annually with all students in all grades. Students may be disciplined by school officials, to include suspension, expulsion, and exclusion from school and all school-sponsored activities, for prohibited conduct occurring on school property, while engaged in or attending a school-sponsored activity, or which affects students going to or returning from school including on a school bus or at a school bus stop. Students may also be disciplined for acts committed away from school property and outside school hours if the conduct is detrimental to the interest of the school, adversely affects school discipline, and/or results in a criminal charge or conviction.

The Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Student Safety and Wellness (SSAW) provides responses to questions concerning Students Rights and Responsibilities, attendance, and student safety and wellness to school staff members and parents. The office provides information and training for students, parents or guardians, and staff members about prevention program work in the following areas: alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD), violence prevention (gangs), bullying, cyberbullying, and Internet safety. SSAW also provides crisis response to school staff members when requested. For more information, call 571-423-4270 or go to www.fcps.edu and click on Parents.

Supporting Achievement

Student Achievement Goals

The Fairfax County School Board has created three overarching student achievement goals that provide a framework for the school system in its work of educating students. The goals involve:

- academics.
- essential life skills.
- responsibility to the community.

For more detailed information on one or all of the School Board's student achievement goals, go to www.fcps.edu and click on School Board.

Program of Studies

The required instructional program for FCPS is defined in the Program of Studies (POS), which contains:

- curriculum content and essential knowledge and skills for each grade level and course.
- approved instructional resources.
- assessment activities.
- alignment with the Virginia Standards of Learning.

The POS overview and other academic programs may be reviewed at any school or by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Parents.

Testing

Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) reading and mathematics tests are given to all students in grades 3 through 8. SOL history tests are administered to students in grades 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8; and SOL science tests are administered to students in grades 3, 5, and 8. The SOL writing test is given to students in grades 5, 8, and 11. In high school, SOL tests are administered when students complete specific courses. The course types and number of SOL tests administered in each area are: English (2), mathematics (3), science (3), and history (3).

The Virginia Alternate Assessment program (VAAP), the Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA), and the Virginia Substitute Evaluation program (VSEP) were developed by the Virginia Department of Education for students with disabilities who cannot participate in SOL tests. These assessments are for students in the grade levels or courses that are assessed by the regular SOL tests. Special education teachers begin collecting student data for these portfolio-type compilations of student achievement indicators at the beginning of the school year and continue through the spring. Certain Limited English Proficient (LEP) students in grades 3 through 8 are also eligible for participation in the VGLA for reading.

The Developmental Reading Assessment, Second Edition: Word Analysis, is administered to all kindergarten students. It is also administered to all students in grades 1, 2, or 3 who are new to Virginia's public schools. Mathematics Reasoning Assessments are administered to all students in grades K–2. Teachers use these assessments to plan for instruction. For more information, call the Office of Student Testing at 571-423-1400.

Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements are based on the year that a student first enters the 9th grade and the diploma that the student chooses to pursue. Students may select to pursue a Standard Diploma or an Advanced Studies Diploma. Students must earn both standard credits and verified credits to be eligible to graduate.

A standard credit is awarded when a student successfully passes a high school level course. A verified unit of credit is based on satisfactory completion of a specific course and a passing score on the Virginia end-of-course Standards of Learning test for that course. Students eligible to receive special education services may also pursue modified standard diplomas or special diplomas.

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Additional information about graduation requirements can be found by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Parents, or by contacting the school counseling department or special education department in an FCPS high school.

Woodson Adult High School, the National External Diploma program, and the GED are offered through the Office of Intervention and Prevention, Department of Special Services. For information, call 703-503-6407.

Academic and Career Plan

Beginning with the 7th grade class of 2012-13, every student will work with his or her counselors, teachers, and family to create an individual Academic and Career Plan using the Family Connection website. Student plans will include career exploration information, intended high school course selection, and Student Achievement Goals. Academic and Career Plans begin in grade 7 with career exploration and will be updated and reviewed periodically through grade 12. School and family collaboration is essential to this student planning opportunity.

Special Programs

Fairfax County Public Schools offers many special programs for students. A list of these programs, along with a short description of each, follows. For more in-depth information on these programs, call the phone number given or visit the website provided (if listed).

Adult and Alternative High Schools

Diploma-granting programs for students who require a nontraditional setting are offered at Bryant Alternative High School, Landmark Career Academy, and Mountain View School. Woodson Adult High School and the National External Diploma program are diploma-granting programs designed specifically for adults.

Adult and Community Education

Adult and Community Education (ACE) offers an extensive array of educational opportunities for career and personal growth for individuals of all ages.

Conveniently located in local schools and community facilities, ACE provides easy access to programs that are high quality, affordable, and enjoyable. Adult classes are geared toward career advancement as well as personal interest. Programs include: business, health and medical, IT, communications, career certificate programs, trade and industry, arts, world languages, and culinary arts. K-12 programs keep students engaged in education in fun and unique ways. Courses include: world languages, driver education, test prep and study skills, and before- and after-school enrichment opportunities. Visit www.fcps.edu/aceclasses for more information.

Advanced Academics

Programs are available for students needing advanced academic services, grades K-12. For further information about elementary school programs, call 571-423-4743. For information about middle school programs, call 571-423-4740. For information about high school programs, call 571-423-4744 or your child's school.

Advanced Placement (AP)

The Advanced Placement (AP) program provides rigorous academic instruction and college-level coursework in each subject area. AP courses are offered in English, world languages, social studies, mathematics, and science and in some of the fine and practical arts. AP courses are primarily designed for students in grades 11 and 12 and are open to all students who meet the prerequisites for the classes. A few AP courses are open to underclassmen as well. Students in AP courses are required to sit for the AP examination and receive an additional weight of 1.0 added to their grade.

AP examinations are scored on a scale of 1 to 5. The College Board recognizes students as AP Scholars who take a minimum of three AP examinations with at least a 3 on each one. AP examinations are recognized for college credit and placement by most universities in the United States and abroad; each college or university sets its own acceptance policies. For more information go to www.collegeboard.com.

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The AP program is offered at Centreville, Chantilly, Fairfax, Falls Church, Herndon, Langley, Madison, McLean, Oakton, West Potomac, West Springfield, Westfield, and Woodson High Schools, at TJHSST, and at Hayfield, Lake Braddock, and South County Secondary Schools. Other FCPS high schools may offer a small selection of AP courses to complement the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. A list of AP courses at each Fairfax County high school is available by going to www.fcps.edu, clicking on Parents, and then clicking on Advanced Academic Programs.

Alternative Learning Centers

The Alternative Learning Center (ALC) is designed to provide continued educational opportunities in core classes for students in grades K through 10 who have been involved in disciplinary procedures or whose school and family requests an elective placement in order to focus on improving behavior.

Career and Technical Education

Comprehensive high schools offer courses in the following areas: business and information technology, family and consumer sciences, health and medical sciences, junior reserve officers training corps, marketing, technology education, and trade and industrial education. In addition, programs in business and information, technology, family and consumer sciences, and technology education are offered in the middle schools.

Advanced technical and specialized elective courses are offered to all FCPS high school juniors and seniors through the academies located at Chantilly, Edison, Fairfax, Falls Church, Marshall, and West Potomac High Schools; school bus transportation may be provided. Other specialized programs for students with particular interests are available at community-based locations and include classroom-on-the mall, hotel marketing, and residential construction.

For further information, call the Office of Career and Technical Education at 571-423-4500, or go to www.fcps.edu and click on Students.

Career and Transition Services

The Career and Transition Services program, part of the Office of Special Education Instruction, includes employment and transition representatives (ETR) at each high school, job coaching services, assistive technology support, career assessments, Work Awareness and Transition (WAT) classes, Office Technology and Procedures (OTP) classes at Pulley and Davis Career Centers, and the Secondary Transition to Employment Program (STEP) based at Chantilly High School. For more information, call 571-423-4150.

College Success Program

The goal of the College Success Program is to provide college readiness, access, and success services to students who have the potential and desire to attend college but face significant barriers. The College Success Program serves students traditionally underrepresented on college and university campuses, such as first generation college students, students in poverty, and minority students. The College Success Program comprises five individual programs: Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), the College Partnership Program, the Early Identification Program, Pathway to the Baccalaureate, and Project Discovery. Each program has its own philosophy and services that, together, include: monitoring of academic performance, tutoring, goal setting, career exploration, assistance with the college application process, field trips to college and university campuses, and summer camps. For additional information, call 571-423-4410.

Early Childhood Identification and Services

Early childhood assessment teams offer comprehensive developmental assessments of preschool children between the ages of two and five years. Children who exhibit significant developmental delays can be considered for special education eligibility and services. Early Childhood Identification and Services are administered by the Office of Special Education at 571-423-4121.

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Elementary Schools for the Arts and Sciences

Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences. The academic program integrates the arts and technology with instruction to make learning a creative experience. Bailey's partners with the Kennedy Center in the Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA) program, providing the nation's finest program in arts integration staff development for its teachers. Students conduct research, produce live dramatic performances, compose original musical scores, design science experiments, and build museum exhibits. For more information, call 703-575-6836 or go to the Bailey's website, www.fcps.edu/BaileysES.

Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences. The academic program integrates fine arts, science, and technology into the curriculum. The fine arts program, partnered with the George Mason Institute of the Arts, develops students' observation levels and creativity. Hunters Woods also partners with the Kennedy Center in the Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA) program, providing the nation's finest program in arts integration staff development for its teachers. The Science Discovery program provides support to the science curriculum and special projects. For more information, call 703-262-7497 or go to the Hunters Woods website, www.fcps.edu/HuntersWoodsES.

Both schools serve children beyond their attendance areas and accept applications.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

ESOL services are provided in all schools to more than 21,000 students to help them develop their English proficiency and increase their academic achievement. With specialized instruction and materials, ESOL teachers work collaboratively with other teachers to provide access to content coursework while simultaneously helping students progress in English.

For additional information, call 571-423-4650, or go to www.fcps.edu and click on Parents. ESOL classes for adults are offered throughout the county. For locations and class schedules, call 703-658-2777.

Extended School Year (ESY) Services

ESY services are provided to students whose individualized education program (IEP) teams have determined that such services are required. All ESY services and transportation are provided free of charge as a part of the student's access to a free, appropriate public education (FAPE), in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004. Additional information can be found by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Parents, and then clicking on Special Education.

Family and Early Childhood Education Program, Head Start, Early Head Start

Through the Family and Early Childhood Education program, Head Start, Early Head Start (FECEP, HS, EHS), parents, other volunteers, and community liaisons work with school staff members to provide comprehensive services that meet children's educational, health, nutritional, social, and emotional needs. The program serves more than 1,200 students, aged three through five years, in classrooms located in 65 schools. The program also provides comprehensive services to children from birth to three years of age and to expectant parents at the Early Head Start Center in the Reston-Herndon area. For eligibility criteria and additional information, call 703-204-6700 (English) or 703-204-6701 (Spanish).

Fine Arts

The FCPS fine arts program is offered to all students and includes K-12 programs in dance, music, theater arts, and visual arts. Programs for high school students with special interests in the fine arts are available at the West Potomac and Fairfax High School academies. For further information, call 571-423-4530, or go to www.fcps.edu and click on Parents.

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Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES)

Foreign language in the elementary school (FLES) is an approach to language learning that allows students to develop basic communicative skills in a language while reinforcing and enriching content in other disciplines. The FLES model develops students' language proficiency by providing language instruction that supports the concepts taught in the subject areas at the respective grade level. Programs provide 30 minutes of instruction twice per week, and the culture of the target language is integrated into instruction. For more information, go to www.fcps.edu and click on Parents.

High School Academies

Six high school academies offer advanced technical and specialized elective courses for students interested in pursuing careers in communication arts, business, engineering, scientific technology, or health and human services. In the academy elective course offerings, juniors and seniors receive both career and academic preparation for future learning in college and career fields. The six academies are located at Chantilly, Edison, Fairfax, Falls Church, Marshall, and West Potomac High Schools. For further information, call the Office of Career and Technical Education at 571-423-4500, or go to www.fcps.edu and click on Students.

High School for Science and Technology

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology offers a comprehensive college preparatory program emphasizing science, mathematics, and technology. For more information, call 571-423-3770, or go to <http://information.tjhsst.edu/admissions>.

Interagency Alternative Schools

Interagency alternative schools offer an education program for at-risk youth who have been placed in specialized settings by county agencies such as the

courts, mental health, or alcohol and drug services. A student whose school or family requests elective placement may also be considered for some settings.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB)

The International Baccalaureate program (IB) provides a comprehensive rigorous education with an international perspective. A student may earn the IB diploma by successfully completing IB courses and their assessment in six areas—English, world languages, social studies, science, mathematics, and an elective. IB diploma students are required to engage in community service and other extracurricular activities (creativity, action, and service), individual research (extended essay), and Theory of Knowledge class. The IB program is a two-year program for 11th and 12th grade and is open to all students. Students may also choose to pursue individual IB courses for certificates. Students in IB courses are required to complete the IB examinations, which receive both internal and external assessments. Students receive an additional weight of 1.0 added to their grades.

IB courses are offered at two levels: standard level (SL) and higher level (HL). IB examinations are scored on a scale of 1 to 7. HL examinations are recognized for college credit and placement by most universities; the number of colleges recognizing SL examinations continues to grow. Each college or university sets its own acceptance policies. For more information about the IB program, see www.ibo.org.

The IB diploma program is offered at Annandale, Edison, Lee, Marshall, Mount Vernon, South Lakes, and Stuart High Schools and at Robinson Secondary School. Some of these schools may offer a small selection of AP courses to complement the IB program. A list of IB courses at each Fairfax County high school is available by going to www.fcps.edu, clicking on Parents, and then clicking on Advanced Academic Programs. For more information, contact the school or the advanced academic programs office at 571-423-4742.

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International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBMYP)

Four FCPS teams of schools have been authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization to offer the International Baccalaureate Middle Years program (IBMYP). IBMYP provides an academically challenging framework for students in grades 6 through 10. The four program teams are at the following schools:

Whitman Middle and Mount Vernon High; Hughes Middle and South Lakes High; Glasgow Middle and Stuart High; Holmes Middle, Poe Middle, and Annandale High School.

For further information, contact a participating school or the instructional services office at 571-423-4742.

Library Information Services

Library Information Services (LIS) supports all aspects of the school library programs and provides for the information needs of the entire FCPS community. This combined preK-12 program acquires materials for all school library collections, administrative offices, FCPS special library collections, and the Education Library. LIS provides access to a wide variety of electronic databases and digital book collections that can be accessed at school and at home. These support all areas of our curriculum, and librarians train students and teachers how to use these products. This program also provides support and training for all librarians.

In addition, a centralized Education Library is maintained for educational research, for the professional growth of administrators, teachers, and librarians, and to respond to information requests from FCPS offices and the School Board. For more information, go to www.fcps.edu and click on Employees.

MentorWorks

MentorWorks is the umbrella name for school-based mentoring programs in Fairfax County Public Schools. Founded in 1999, its mission is to connect every student in the school system with a caring and responsible adult in a mentoring relationship.

Many elementary, middle, and high schools have successfully implemented mentoring programs using a variety of models including traditional one-to-one relationships and group, team, and peer mentoring. The MentorWorks program is focused on helping students develop their strengths and capabilities and strives to help students reach their full potentials. For further information, call 571-423-4403 or go to www.fcps.edu and click on Community.

Middle School After-School Programs

All FCPS middle schools offer comprehensive, high-quality after-school programs five days a week. Particular program offerings vary by school, but all offer activities that address four key strategies: academic support and enrichment; social skills and youth development; physical fitness, health, and recreation; and family and community involvement. For more information, or go to www.fcps.edu and click on Parents.

Online Campus

The FCPS Online Campus is a web-based high school course delivery program. FCPS Online Campus delivers courses identical in content to those offered in traditional classrooms and uses multimedia to teach students. For more information, talk to your school counselor or go to www.fcps.edu and click on Students.

Partnerships

Business and community organizations regularly form partnerships with FCPS. The FCPS "Give Me Five" campaign identifies ways to partner with the school system. These include:

- mentoring a child.
- partnering with a school.
- partnering systemwide.
- supporting an existing partnership.
- helping to develop or advance an educational initiative.

For more information, call 571-423-1209.

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Professional Development Academic Center

A professional development academic center is available at Riverside Elementary School. The program consists of four teachers, certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), who teach primary and upper elementary school students with a focused high-quality program of instruction. The program specifically addresses the critical issues and challenges facing this multicultural school.

Psychology Services

Psychologists are child development and mental health specialists who work with students, parents, and school staff members to maximize every student's capacity for academic and social success. A psychologist is assigned to every school. Additional information is available by calling the Office of Psychology Services at 571-423-4250.

School Counseling Services

School counselors collaborate with parents and guardians, administrators, school staff, and other community members to provide a K-12 comprehensive developmentally age-appropriate program. The program addresses the academic, personal, social, and career needs of all students and prepares them to become lifelong learners and productive members of a global society.

The Career Center specialist, in collaboration with school counselors, assists students with their college, career, and employment exploration and decision making process. Each FCPS high school provides a career center dedicated to student discovery and planning for postsecondary educational opportunities and career choices.

For further information, contact your child's school or the Office of School Counseling Services at 571-423-4420, or go to www.fcps.edu and click on Students.

Social Work Services

School social workers are assigned to every school and center. They provide counseling and other

services to students, parents, and school staff members. Social workers serve as a link between school, home, and the community. For further information, call the Office of Social Work and Support Services at 571-423-4300.

Special Education, PreK-12

The Office of Special Education Instruction directs and supports the development, implementation, operation, and evaluation of preK-12 educational programs, curricula, and services to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities. Child Find services are provided to families to help identify students requiring special education services and support. In addition to serving students at the early childhood and elementary school levels, services are also provided to identify students with disabilities at the secondary school level, supporting their transition from high school to postsecondary education and employment.

Special education services for students who require additional specialized interventions to successfully participate in educational experiences include:

- Adapted physical education.
- Assistive technology services.
- Deaf and hard-of-hearing services.
- Therapy services.
- Speech and language services.
- Vision impaired services.

For more information regarding special education services, go to www.fcps.edu and click on Parents, or call 571-423-4160.

Special Education PreK-12—Adapted Curriculum

The PreK-12 Adapted Curriculum program provides direct and indirect support to schools in the instruction of students with low-incidence disabilities of autism, intellectual disabilities, severe intellectual disabilities, and physical disabilities. The PreK-12 Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program has a primary objective of supporting the special education instruction of students with autism and

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related disorders through the use of principles of Applied Behavior Analysis. In designated preschool, elementary, and secondary classrooms, ABA is used to modify behaviors and teach new skills. For more information, call 571-423-4100.

Summer Programs

The FCPS summer program provides numerous academic and enrichment opportunities for students. The Online Campus program gives high school students the opportunity to accelerate their academic program or earn credit recovery. Term graduates—those who plan to graduate by August 30, 2012—may enroll for selected credit recovery courses, and a Standards of Learning test-only program is available for selected high school students. High school students who have passed a Standards of Learning (SOL) class but who have failed the accompanying Standards of Learning test can enroll in face to face remediation at a central site and retake the SOL test upon completing the SOL Remediation course. Middle and high school English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) students may improve their skills through a summer ESOL course.

Students may also find challenging science, technology, engineering, and mathematics summer programs through offerings at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) and enrichment opportunities through the Institute for the Arts (IFTA), Tech Adventure Camp, and Fashion Camp. Additional enrichment programs and courses are also offered through FCPS Adult and Community Education (ACE).

Information about summer programs will be in *Familygram* and at www.fcps.edu when details are available, and those interested in receiving messages about summer programs can subscribe to KIT Plus current events. Information about ACE is also available at 703-658-1293 and www.fcps.edu/aceclasses; IFTA at 571-423-4530; Tech Adventure Camp at 571-423-4502; Fashion Camp at 571-423-4599; TJHSST at www.tjhsst.edu/curriculum/summer; and Academic and ESOL programs at 571-423-4620.

Title I

Title I is a federal grant that currently provides additional funding and support to 34 FCPS elementary schools with the highest percentage of low income students. By using best practices and participating in school Professional Learning Communities, Title I teachers provide additional support to schools to close the achievement gap and help all students pass the Virginia Standards of Learning tests. For a brochure and more information, call 571-423-4700.

Transitional High School Program

Four sites offer evening classes designed to meet the instructional needs of students who:

- have limited English proficiency.
- are 18 years old or older.
- have limited, interrupted, or no prior schooling and/or are working significantly below grade level.

For more information, go to www.fcps.edu and click on Students, or call 703-208-7877.

Volunteers

FCPS welcomes volunteers at all schools to serve in a variety of areas. Citizens are urged to participate by contacting the nearest school or office.

World Languages Partial-Immersion Program

Selected elementary and middle schools offer partial-immersion programs in French, Spanish, Japanese, and German. Applications for rising first graders are available in all elementary schools in January and by going to www.fcps.edu, clicking on Parents, and then clicking on Language Immersion. For more information, call world languages at 571-423-4602.

Organization

The School Board

A 12-member School Board is elected to four-year terms that are concurrent with the terms of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; one School Board member represents each of nine magisterial (election) districts, and three members serve at large. The current School Board members' terms expire on December 31, 2011.

A student representative, selected for a one-year term at a nominating convention conducted by the countywide Student Advisory Council, participates in discussions but does not vote.

Elizabeth T. Bradsher
Springfield District
571-423-1080

Brad Center
Lee District
571-423-1081

Sandra S. Evans
Mason District
571-423-1083

Stuart D. Gibson
Hunter Mill District
571-423-1082

Martina A. Hone
At-Large Member
571-423-1089

Ilryong Moon
At-Large Member
571-423-1090

James L. Raney
At-Large Member
571-423-1091

Patricia S. Reed
Providence District
571-423-1084

Kathy L. Smith
Sully District
571-423-1085

Daniel G. Storck
Mt. Vernon District
571-423-1086

Jane K. Strauss
Dranesville District
571-423-1087

Judith "Tessie" Wilson
Braddock District
571-423-1088

Eugene Coleman
Mt. Vernon
Student
Representative
571-423-1092

Current as of July 2011.

Function

The School Board sets general school policy and, within the framework of Virginia Board of Education regulations, establishes guidelines that will ensure the proper administration of the county school program.

All School Board policies and regulations are available by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on School Board. A search mechanism and numerical index is provided. If you do not have Internet access and would like a printed copy of any policy or regulation, please direct your request to your child's school principal.

Meetings

Regularly scheduled business meetings are held twice each month, except in August, at 7 p.m. at Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. These meetings are open to the public and are broadcast live on cable Channel 21, as well as a live video stream available at www.fcps.edu. Special meetings, public hearings, and work sessions on various subjects are scheduled frequently and are also open to the public.

Specific topics for public hearings include boundaries, the budget, and the capital improvement program.

More information, including calendars, agendas, and regular business and work session meeting minutes, are available from the FCPS website (www.fcps.edu).

Communication

The School Board welcomes comments from Fairfax County residents and believes that strong community engagement and outreach are important components of successful school system.

There are opportunities for community members to address the Board at regular meetings and public hearings. You may also mail your written comments to the School Board Office at:

8115 Gatehouse Road, Suite 5400
Falls Church, VA 22042

Or send an e-mail to: schoolboardmembers@fcps.edu.

For general information or with questions, call 571-423-1075.

Organization

Administration

Jack D. Dale, Superintendent of Schools, is supported by a Leadership Team composed of:

- a deputy superintendent.
- a division counsel.
- a chief operating officer for facilities and transportation services.
- assistant superintendents administering:
 - ◆ communications and community outreach.
 - ◆ financial services.
 - ◆ human resources.
 - ◆ information technology.
 - ◆ instructional services.
 - ◆ professional learning and accountability.
 - ◆ special services.
- eight cluster assistant superintendents.

The schools are divided into eight clusters, each comprising three to four high schools and their feeder elementary and middle schools. Each cluster is led by an assistant superintendent.

Schools are listed by type, by cluster, and by special programs in the school directory available by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Schools and Centers.

The assistant superintendent of each cluster:

- monitors, assesses, and evaluates school effectiveness to ensure that a high-quality instructional program is provided for all students.
- monitors student achievement and implementation of the Program of Studies.
- directs the provision of student services.
- evaluates principals.
- responds to parental concerns that cannot be resolved at the local school.

All cluster assistant superintendents' offices are located at the Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042. Cluster office phone numbers follow:

Cluster I	571-423-1110	Cluster V	571-423-1150
Cluster II	571-423-1120	Cluster VI	571-423-1160
Cluster III	571-423-1130	Cluster VII	571-423-1170
Cluster IV	571-423-1140	Cluster VIII	571-423-1180

Parents with concerns are encouraged to first contact teachers, then school principals; they may also contact assistant superintendents in the appropriate cluster offices.

Nondiscrimination

No student, employee, or applicant for employment in Fairfax County Public Schools shall, on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, marital status, genetic information, disability, or age (under certain conditions), be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity.

Compliance is coordinated by the directors of the following:

Office of Equity and Compliance Department of Human Resources

571-423-3050 or TTY 711

Regarding equal employment opportunity, discrimination, and sexual harassment issues.

Office of Special Education Procedural Support Department of Special Services

571-423-4290

Regarding programs and activities for students with disabilities.

Office of Design and Construction Services Department of Facilities and Transportation Services

571-423-2200

Regarding access to facilities.

Correspondence may be addressed to any of the above offices and sent to:

8115 Gatehouse Road
Falls Church, VA 22042



Building the Future...Child by Child

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

Facts About FCPS Student Achievement

Individual students and groups annually earn honors and awards in all academic, extracurricular, and athletic areas in regional, state, and national competitions.

The four-year Virginia on-time graduation rate for Fairfax County was 91.2 percent for 2010.

91.7 percent of high school graduates continued on to some form of postsecondary education in 2010.

The dropout rate for school year 2009-10 was 1.43 percent.

FCPS students in the class of 2010 had an average combined SAT score of 1664. This far exceeds the average combined scores of 1521 in Virginia and 1509 in the nation.

In 2009-10, 65 percent of graduates earned advanced diplomas.

The number of Advanced Placement exams taken by FCPS students rose from 26,040 in 2006 to 32,230 in 2010. More than 70 percent of the advanced placement tests taken by FCPS students in 2010 rated a score of 3 or above (on a grading scale of 1-5).

In the 2011 *Washington Post* rankings, FCPS schools were in the top six percent of all American high schools as measured by their student participation in Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams.

FCPS students earned over 7,000 industry certifications during the 2009-2010 school year, an increase of 86 percent from the previous year. Career and Technical Education certifications are offered in 46 categories.



8115 Gatehouse Road
Falls Church, VA 22042
571-423-1200
www.fcps.edu