

# Strategic Goals and Targets

## Strategic Goals

The School Board has set forth a vision of providing a gifted-quality education for each of our students. This vision drives the three strategic goals that direct how we target resources to meet every child's needs:

### Strategic Goal 1

All students will meet academic performance standards at benchmarked grade levels.

### Strategic Goal 2

Students will demonstrate exceptional performance via completion of advanced coursework.

### Strategic Goal 3

The climate in all FCPS facilities will be safe and secure.

## Strategic Targets

Setting these goals in motion is accomplished through ten divisionwide targets that set the priorities and direction of the entire budget process. Over time, these targets serve as a benchmark for the School Board and community to measure how to best direct resources to meet student needs and offer a blueprint for the direction of all planning and budgeting. The School Board's Ten Strategic Targets are:

1. All students will be reading at or above grade level by the end of the 2nd grade.
2. All schools will meet Virginia accreditation and No Child Left Behind Adequate Yearly Progress standards.
3. The participation and performance of juniors and seniors in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses will increase.
4. All grade 11 students will have the required verified credits for graduation by the end of the 11th grade.
5. The achievement of all students taking the SAT in their senior year will increase.
6. The participation of Black, Hispanic, and economically disadvantaged students in gifted and talented programs will increase.
7. The percentage of students in professional technical courses who pass the corresponding industry certification tests will increase.
8. The reading and mathematics Standards of Learning (SOL) scores for all grade 8 students will increase.
9. All schools will be safe and secure.
10. All schools will increase their ability to serve students with disabilities in general education classrooms.

# State and Federal Mandates

All FCPS departments and programs comply with federal and state regulations governing public education. Increasingly, these mandates specifically direct what programs and how they must be provided by public school divisions. Following is a summary of major legislation that impacts instructional programs in FCPS with links to websites with complete legislative detail.

## **Code of Virginia**

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+TOC2201000>

The Code of Virginia is the statutory law of Virginia and consists of the codified legislation of the Virginia General Assembly. Examples of the items covered include: General Powers and Duties of School Boards, Virginia Public School Authority, Pupil Transportation, and The Standards of Quality.

## **Virginia Board of Education Standards and Regulations**

[http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/VA\\_Board/Standards/standards.shtml](http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/VA_Board/Standards/standards.shtml)

The Virginia Board of Education publishes standards and regulations. Standards include the Standards of Learning, Standards of Accreditation, and the Standards of Quality. Included in the regulations are Regulations Governing Education Services for Gifted Students, Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia, Regulations Governing Physical and Health Education, Regulations Regarding School Guidance and Counseling Programs in the Public Schools of Virginia, and many others.

## **Virginia Standards of Accreditation**

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Accountability/soa.html>

The standards for the accreditation of public schools in Virginia are designed to ensure that an effective educational program is established and maintained in Virginia's public schools. The mission of the public education system is to educate students in the essential academic knowledge and skills in order that they may be equipped for citizenship, work, and a private life that is informed and free.

## **Virginia Standards of Learning**

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Superintendent/Sols/home.shtml>

The Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools describe the commonwealth's expectations for student learning and achievement in grades K-12 in English, mathematics, science, history/social science, technology, the fine arts, foreign language, health and physical education, and driver education.

## **Virginia Standards of Quality**

[http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/VA\\_Board/Standards/](http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/VA_Board/Standards/)

The Constitution of Virginia requires the Board of Education to determine and prescribe standards of quality for the public schools of Virginia, subject to revision only by the General Assembly. These standards are known as the Standards of Quality (SOQ) and form part of the Code of Virginia. These standards are available online.

## **Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act**

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/reauth/perkins.html>

The purpose of Perkins is to provide individuals with the academic and technical skills needed to succeed in a knowledge- and skills-based economy. Perkins supports career and technical education that prepares its students both for postsecondary education and the careers of their choice. Federal resources help ensure that career and technical programs are academically rigorous and up-to-date with the needs of business and industry. State and local funding supports the career and technical education infrastructure and pays teachers' salaries and other operating expenses.

# State and Federal Mandates

## **Child Nutrition Act**

[http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Lunch/AboutLunch/ProgramHistory\\_6.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Lunch/AboutLunch/ProgramHistory_6.htm)

The Child Nutrition Act (CNA) was created in 1966 as a result of the years of successful experience under the National School Lunch Program to help meet the nutritional needs of children. Recognizing that good nutrition is essential to good learning, the act established the School Breakfast Program, a federally assisted meal program that provides low cost of free breakfast to children in public and non-profit schools as well as child care institutions.

## **Federal Workforce Investment Act and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act**

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/adulted/leg/legis.html>

Signed into Law on August 7, 1998, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 reforms Federal employment, adult education, and vocational rehabilitation programs to create an integrated, “one-stop” system of workforce investment and education activities for adults and youth. Entities that carry out activities assisted under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act are mandatory partners in this one-stop delivery system.

## **Head Start Act**

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/budget/headstartact.htm>

Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive child development programs which serve children from birth to age 5, pregnant women, and their families. They are child-focused programs and have the overall goal of increasing the school readiness of young children in low-income families. Head Start is a program within the Administration on Children, Youth and Families in the Department of Health and Human Services.

## **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/idea2004.html>

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires public schools to make available to all eligible children with disabilities a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment appropriate to their individual needs. IDEA requires public school systems to develop appropriate Individualized Education Programs (IEP's) for each child. The specific special education and related services outlined in each IEP reflect the individualized needs of each student. IDEA also mandates that particular procedures be followed in the development of the IEP. Each student's IEP must be developed by a team of knowledgeable persons and must be at least reviewed annually. The team includes the child's teacher; the parents, subject to certain limited exceptions; the child, if determined appropriate; an agency representative who is qualified to provide or supervise the provision of special education; and other individuals at the parents' or agency's discretion.

## **No Child Left Behind Act**

<http://www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml>

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 is the reauthorization of a number of federal programs that strive to improve the performance of America's primary and secondary schools by increasing the standards of accountability for states, school districts, and schools, as well as providing parents more flexibility in choosing which schools their children will attend. Additionally, it promotes an increased focus on reading and reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

# Acronym Index

## -- A --

ABA/VB - Applied Behavioral Analysis/Verbal Behavior  
ABE - Adult Basic Education  
ACE - Adult and Community Education  
ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act  
AIA - Alternative Instruction Arrangement  
AIM - Achievement, Integrity, and Maturity  
ALC - Alternative Learning Center  
AP - Advanced Placement  
AVID - Advancement Via Individual Determination

## -- B --

BPREP - Budget Preparation System  
BTIP - Beginning Teacher Induction Program

## -- C --

CASPS - County and School Procurement System  
CBSS - Community-Based Summer School  
CCC - Cooperative Computer Center  
CETA - Changing Education Through the Arts  
CIP - Capital Improvement Program  
CNA - Child Nutrition Act  
CPP - College Partnership Program  
CRPMP - Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Program  
CTE - Career and Technical Education

## -- D --

DFS - Department of Financial Services  
DRA - Developmental Reading Assessment  
DSS - Department of Special Services

## -- E --

EAI - Enterprise Application Integration  
ED - Emotional Disabilities  
EDP - External Diploma Program  
EDSL - Educational Decision Support Library  
EIS - Enterprise Information Systems  
ERFC - Educational Employees' Supplementary Retirement System of Fairfax County  
ES - Elementary School  
ESOL - English for Speakers of Other Languages  
ESY - Extended School Year

# Acronym Index

-- F --

FAACS - Fixed Asset and Accounting System  
FAMIS - Financial Accounting Management Information System  
FASTeam - Functional Applications Support Team  
FCPS - Fairfax County Public Schools  
FECEP - Family and Early Childhood Education Program  
FLE - Family Life Education  
FLES - Foreign Language in Elementary Schools  
FLSA - Fair Labor Standards Act  
FSIS - Family Services and Involvement Section  
FT - Full-Time  
FY - Fiscal Year

-- G --

GED - General Education Development  
GMU - George Mason University  
GT - Gifted and Talented

-- H --

HIPAA - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act  
HR - Human Resources  
HRIS - Human Resource Information System  
HS - High School

-- I --

IB - International Baccalaureate  
IBMYP - International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme  
IDEA - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act  
IEP - Individualized Education Program  
IGSCE - International General Certificate of Secondary Education  
IMS - Instructional Management System  
IPSC - Instructional Programs Service Center  
IS - Instructional Services  
IT - Information Technology  
ITO - Information Technology Operations  
ITS - Integrated Technology Services

-- J --

JROTC - Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps

-- L --

LAN - Local Area Network

# Acronym Index

-- M --

MS - Middle School  
MSA - Minority Student Achievement  
MSAOC - Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee

-- N --

NBCT - National Board Certified Teacher  
NBPTS - National Board for Professional Teaching Standards  
NOC - Network Operations Center

-- O --

OEC - Office of Equity and Compliance  
OEP - Office of Educational Planning  
OPE - Office of Program Evaluation  
OPM - Office of Payroll Management  
OSDT - Office of Staff Development and Training  
OSHA - Occupational Health and Safety Act  
OST - Office of Student Testing  
OT - Overtime

-- P --

PAC - Preschool Autism Class  
POS - Program of Studies  
PRC - Parent Resource Center  
PT - Part-Time  
PTA - Parent Teacher Association

-- Q --

QPAS - Quality Programs Assurance System

-- R --

REOC - Replacement Equipment Oversight Committee  
ROTC - Reserve Officers Training Corps

-- S --

SACS - Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
SASI - School Administrative Student Information  
SAWW - Schools Accredited With Warning  
SBTS - School-Based Technology Specialist  
SDFY - Safe and Drug-Free Youth  
SOL - Standards of Learning  
SOQ - Standards of Quality

# Acronym Index

-- T --

TJHSST - Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

TPA - Technology Planning Assessment

TSA - Total School Approach

TSSC - Technology Support Service Center

TSSpec - Technology Support Specialist

TTT - Time-to-Teach

-- V --

VHSL - Virginia High School League

VLP - Volunteer Learning Program

VSEN - Virginia Satellite Education Network

-- W --

WAHS - Woodson Adult High School

# Glossary

-- A --

**Accrual Basis of Accounting** - Revenues are recognized when earned, and expenses are recognized when incurred.

**Advanced Placement (AP) Program** - An intensive program of college-level courses and examinations that provides high school students with an opportunity to earn advanced placement, college credit, or both, at participating universities and colleges across the country. The AP program bridges the transition from secondary school to college by offering students an opportunity to develop their academic strengths through rigorous curricula, challenging national examinations, by exposing them to academic experiences usually reserved for college students.

**Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID)** - A program that meets the educational needs of underachieving students in middle and high school. Students are prepared to meet college entrance requirements and are taught academic strategies to use in their learning.

**Advertised Budget** - This is the second phase of the budget process and reflects the School Board's changes to the proposed budget. This budget is submitted by the School Board to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors detailing proposed revenues, expenditures, and transfers for the coming fiscal year.

**AIM Program** - The AIM (Achievement, Integrity, and Maturity) program serves expelled and excluded students. Students attending this program would not be served by any other education program and would be at greater risk for engaging in destructive behavior in the community.

**Alternative Programs** - A variety of intervention and support programs for students at risk for expulsion for inappropriate behavior, students conditionally expelled, and students whose adjustment to traditional education interferes with successful participation in general education.

**Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)** - A federal law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities and requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations to help those with disabilities in performing their jobs. An individual with a disability is defined by the ADA as a person with a serious physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.

**Appropriation** - An expenditure level granted by the Board of Supervisors to the School Board to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. Appropriation authorizations expire at the end of the fiscal year.

**Approved Budget** - The third and final phase of the budget process. The approved budget reflects all the adjustments approved by the School Board in May resulting from revised revenue, expenditures, membership, and other projections and is the budget implemented on the following July 1.

**Average Daily Membership (ADM)** - The aggregate membership of a school division divided by the number of days school is in session. ADM is a factor in the state funding formula.

-- B --

**Baseline** - The baseline budget includes funding to continue current educational and support programs.

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**Beginning Balance** - Unexpended funds that may be used to finance expenditures during the current or coming fiscal year.

**Bond** - A written promise to pay a specified sum of money (called the principal) at a specified date in the future, together with periodic interest at a specified rate. Bonds are a form of long-term borrowing used for capital improvements and new construction.

**Budget Reviews** - Three times during the fiscal year (midyear, third-quarter, and end of fiscal year) the current year budget is reevaluated based on current projections. Recommendations are made for School Board approval of funding adjustments on an exception basis to the current year budget and for consideration of emergency items.

**Building Modifications** - Facility improvements to include safety items and handicapped access improvements, as well as changes to existing facilities such as electrical updates, walls, or other functional improvements.

-- C --

**Capital Equipment** - Fixed assets valued above \$5,000, such as automobiles, furniture, instruments, etc.

**Capital Expenditures** - Repair or maintenance of facilities and grounds, including boiler repair, air conditioning units, carpet replacement, and the resurfacing of roads, parking lots, and play areas.

**Capital Improvement Program (CIP)** - The CIP is used as a basis for determining the timing and size of proposed bond referenda to be placed before the voters of Fairfax County. The primary source of funding for school construction projects is the sale of bonds authorized by the voters in these referenda.

**Capital Projects Fund** - Used to account for financial resources to be used in the acquisition or construction of school sites and buildings and other major capital facilities.

**Carryover** - The process by which certain funds for previously approved School Board commitments to pay for goods and services at the end of one fiscal year are reappropriated in the next fiscal year.

**Categorical Aid** - Funding targeted toward a specific student population or that fulfills a particular state or federal regulation.

**Category A Special Education Programs** - This includes Level 1 and Level 2 services for emotional disabilities and learning disabilities.

**Category B Special Education Programs** - This includes Level 1 and Level 2 services for autism, mild retardation, moderate retardation, physical disabilities, noncategorical, and severe disabilities.

**Central Procurement Fund** - This fund accounts for centrally procured orders for textbooks, supplies, and equipment. This is primarily a clearing account and does not increase the total budget of the school system.

# Glossary

**Cluster** - Clusters provide necessary support for schools and the community within the cluster. Each cluster includes two to four pyramids that consist of high schools and their feeder schools. Alternative schools and centers are aligned geographically within their appropriate cluster.

**Community Use Funds** - Funds collected from outside entities for use of FCPS' facilities during nonschool hours.

**Construction Fund** - The fund used to account for new schools, school additions, and other major capital improvements to school buildings.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI)** - Measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a fixed market basket of consumer goods and services. The CPI provides a way for consumers to compare what the market basket of goods and services costs this month with what the same market basket cost a month or a year ago.

**Cost Per Pupil** - The cost-per-pupil allocation provides an overall view of the cost of instructional programs that can be used to compare how school systems spend their funds. Identifying all direct and indirect costs associated with an instructional program and dividing by the unduplicated count of membership enrolled in the program determines the cost-per-pupil allocation.

**Cost Per Service** -The cost per service is calculated to show the cost of providing a specific type of educational service to a student.

**County General Fund Transfer** - The primary source of funds for FCPS.

-- D --

**Division Plan** - The school system's written commitment to the School Board's mission and priorities for FCPS. The plan includes School Board priorities, measures for evaluating the progress in meeting the priorities, and work plans for accomplishing the priorities. The Division Plan and progress reports are required by the state.

-- E --

**Educational Employees' Supplementary Retirement System of Fairfax County (ERFC)** - The fund used to account for employees' retirement activities.

**English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)** - The ESOL program helps limited English proficient students learn literacy and content concepts in order to function successfully in the general education program.

-- F --

**Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS)** - The governing body of Fairfax County is the Board of Supervisors. One supervisor is elected to represent each of nine magisterial voting districts. The chairperson is elected at large. Each district is roughly equal in population.

# Glossary

**Fairfax County Employees' Retirement System (FCERS)** - The Fairfax County Employees' Retirement System is a mandatory retirement program, required by county ordinance, for full-time maintenance, custodial, food service, and transportation employees and less-than-full-time educational administrative/support employees.

**Fairfax Framework** - Addresses content standards that identify what all students should know and be able to do when they graduate from a Fairfax County public school. These standards are knowledge-based and designed to prepare students fully for life in the workplace of the 21st century.

**Family and Early Childhood Education Program (FECEP)** - FECEP is a local, state, and federal funded program administered by the county Office for Children but staffed by FCPS employees. This program includes Head Start and the Virginia Preschool Initiative.

**Family Life Education (FLE)** - Program for students that includes education on human sexuality and reproduction; alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention; abuse prevention; and HIV/AIDS prevention education.

**Federal Aid** - Federal aid is budgeted by the federal government, for federal programs, a year in advance of actual use by the localities.

**Federal Earmark** - A direct funding appropriation from Congress for a specific purpose or project. This funding is treated as a grant.

**Fiscal Year (FY)** - The FCPS fiscal year encompasses the 12 months beginning July 1 and ending the following June 30.

**Flexibility Reserve** - Funding appropriated and set aside to keep the current year's budget in balance in the event of fluctuations in student membership, weather, utility rates, bus maintenance charges, loss of state or federal aid, and fluctuations in compensation accounts.

**Food and Nutrition Services Fund** - The self-supporting fund used to account for all activities of the school food and nutrition services program.

**Foreign Language Immersion Program** - Selected elementary and middle schools offer partial immersion programs in French, Spanish, Japanese, and German. Students acquire the foreign language while mastering the content curriculum.

**Free and Reduced-Price Meals** - This program is required for participation in the federally funded school lunch program under the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Acts. This program provides free or reduced-price meals to children determined to be eligible under the program, and supports the belief of the Fairfax County School Board that every school-age child should have an adequate lunch.

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)** - The Freedom of Information Act establishes the right of the public to obtain information maintained by the federal or state government and their agencies. The FOIA creates a general mechanism designed to ensure that the process for getting that information will be simple, timely, and inexpensive.

# Glossary

**Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)** - Method of calculating hourly or part-time employees on a full-time position basis.

**Fund** - As defined by the state auditor of public accounts, a group of accounts that are similar in nature (have similar activities, objectives, or funding sources).

**Fund Statements** - Financial statements that display receipts, expenditures, transfers in, transfers out, and changes in fund balance for each of the nine School Board funds.

-- G --

**General Education Program** - The major educational programs that serve students in the core instructional areas, namely elementary, middle, and high school instruction.

**Grants and Self-Supporting Programs Fund** - This fund accounts for federal grants, state grants, private grants, and summer school.

-- H --

**HeadStart** - A federal grant that provides a comprehensive child development program to children ages three to five years old from income-eligible families living in Fairfax County.

**Health and Flexible Benefits Fund** - The fund used to account for the administration of all health and dental care costs for employees. In addition, the fund provides for the payment of eligible health and dependent care expenses for employees enrolled in the flexible spending account program.

**High School Academies** - A center within an existing high school that offers advanced technical and specialized courses that successfully integrate career and academic preparation. Each academy emphasizes instruction in one or more career fields: communications arts, engineering and scientific technology, health and human services, or international studies and business.

-- I --

**IMPACT II** - A program of grants to teachers for innovative instructional ideas that is funded through the FCPS Education Foundation, Inc.

**Individualized Education Program (IEP)** - A written statement indicating the primary special education placement and related services a student with disabilities will receive. The IEP is developed mutually by the child's parents and by a team of FCPS specialists.

**Insurance** - The School Board provides insurance policies or self-insurance plans to cover specific liability risks of the Board, individual Board members, and employees. Certain coverages also are extended to volunteers, student teachers, and exchange teachers. School Board property is covered by an insurance policy with a large deductible.

# Glossary

**International Baccalaureate (IB)** - The IB Programme is an internationally recognized advanced academic program for 11th and 12th graders. This program provides college level course work in six academic areas and provides high school students with an opportunity to earn advanced placement, college credit, or both, at participating universities and colleges across the country.

-- J --

**Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC)** - Program supported by the Navy, Army, Air Force, or Marines that provides a four-year, sequential program of instruction that emphasizes academic preparation, citizenship, leadership, character development, and the scope of the particular military branch. Currently seven schools offer this program which is available to all students in grades 9 through 12 at their specific school sites and to students who want to take advantage of pupil placement to enroll in the program.

-- L --

**Level 1 Services** - Level 1 services refers to the provision of special education and related services to children with disabilities for less than 50 percent of their instructional school day (excluding intermission for meals). The time that a child receives special education services is calculated on the basis of special education services described in the Individualized Education Program, rather than the location of services.

**Level 2 Services** - Level 2 services refers to the provision of special education and related services to children with disabilities for 50 percent or more of the instructional school day (excluding intermission for meals). The time that a child receives special education services is calculated on the basis of special education services described in the Individualized Education Program, rather than the location of services.

**Local Composite Index (LCI)** - The relative wealth index used by the state to equalize state aid to localities.

-- M --

**Membership** - Another term for student enrollment.

**Modified Accrual Basis of Accounting** - Revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available and expenditures are generally recognized when the liability is incurred.

**Multiple Disabilities** - Students with multiple disabilities are served through special education programs that meet the students' individual needs.

-- N --

**National Merit Scholarship Program** - The National Merit Scholarship Program is a privately financed academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the Merit Program by taking the PSAT/NMSQT™ - a test that serves as an initial screen of the more than one million entrants each year - and by meeting published entry and participation requirements.

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**New Resources** - A term used to identify budget requests requiring additional resources above the baseline budget funding. These requests support the development of new programs to meet identified School Board goals.

**No Child Left Behind (NCLB)** – A 2001 federal law designed to improve student achievement and change the culture of America’s schools.

**Noncapital Equipment** - Equipment with a useful life greater than one year and an acquisition value equal to or greater than \$500.

-- O --

**Other Operating Expenditures** - A category of recurring expenses other than salaries and capital equipment costs that covers expenditures necessary to maintain facilities, collect revenues, provide services, and otherwise carry out departmental goals. Typical line items in this category are printing, travel, vehicle maintenance, and self-insurance.

-- P --

**Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT™)** - The PSAT/NMSQT™ is a cosponsored program by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The PSAT/NMSQT™ assesses knowledge and skills developed through study in a wide range of courses as well as through experiences outside the classroom. Although the PSAT/NMSQT™ is not directly related to a specific high school curriculum, it is developed to reflect the kinds of academic experiences that teachers consider important. Schools administer the PSAT/NMSQT™ once a year in October.

**Program of Studies (POS)** - The detailed educational blueprint followed by all teachers in their provision of educational services.

**Project Excel** - This program provides additional resources to participating elementary schools across the school system. The three major components of the program include additional time for learning, enhanced academic programs, and school accountability. The increased time for learning includes a full-day kindergarten and an enhanced elementary school day. To enhance the student academic program, all schools are provided with technology that supports phonics instruction and phonemic awareness for all kindergarten and first grade students. School accountability is measured through grade-by-grade testing.

**Proposed Budget** - A plan of financial operations submitted by the Superintendent to the School Board detailing proposed revenues, appropriations, expenditures, and transfers for the coming fiscal year.

-- Q --

**Quality Programs Assurance System (QPAS)** - QPAS defines a set of data elements that represent the types of information that are available about programs and services. QPAS also defines three levels of accountability for reporting on these data elements. Data for each of the following elements are available at varying levels of detail for documentation, review, and evaluation reports: program purposes, goals, and

# Glossary

objectives; nature of the program/intervention(s); number and location of sites; groups targeted for impact by program; program staff; organizational structure; training/staff development; program implementation; program impact; and program budget and expenditures.

-- R --

**Ratio Positions** - Personnel positions established by applying each school's student population to staffing standards approved by the School Board.

-- S --

**Safe and Drug-Free Youth (SDFY) Program** - Focuses on violence and alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention for school-age children by creating and implementing prevention programs at the school level and by establishing school and community coalitions throughout the county. Prevention efforts focus on enabling schools and communities to meet prevention goals by providing a broad range of activities, support, training, and resources.

**SAT I and SAT II** - The SAT is a widely used college admission test. The SAT measures verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities that students develop over time, both in and out of school, which are related to successful performance in college. The SAT II Subject Tests are designed to measure knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge in specific subject areas.

**School Achievement Index (SAI)** - An accountability system measuring student achievement as indicated by scores on the Standards of Learning (SOL) and Stanford 9 TA. Developed by the Department of Educational Accountability and endorsed by the School Board, it is used to gauge the performance of individual schools and the division overall.

**School-Age Child Care (SACC)** - Sponsored by Fairfax County government's Office for Children, SACC provides school-based day care facilities for elementary school children before and after school.

**School Insurance Fund** - This fund provides for the administration of workers' compensation accounts, the centralization of self-insurance accounts for liability and the purchase of commercial insurance.

**Special Education Programs** - Services provided for eligible students in grades preschool-12 countywide. Specific programs include autism, deaf/hard-of-hearing, emotional disabilities, learning disabilities, moderately retarded and severe disabilities, physical and occupational therapy, physical disabilities, speech and language, and visual impairment.

**Staffing Standards** - Per-student ratios used to allocate teachers, administrators, and other instructional staff to schools and centers.

**Standard Allocations** - Per-student ratios used to allocate textbooks, supplies, and other materials funds to schools.

**Standards of Learning (SOL)** - Objectives that are designated by the Virginia Board of Education as the student outcomes that are to result from the programs in the school. These standards are designated for all K-12 students.

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**Standards of Quality (SOQ)** - The General Assembly and the Board of Education determine the SOQ for public schools in Virginia, as prescribed by the Code of Virginia. These standards are periodically revised and specify that each school division shall maintain schools that meet those requirements for accreditation prescribed by the Board of Education.

**Student Registration Services** - Offers registration services to foreign students, language-minority students, exchange students, and tuition-paying students. Student registration also provides information to newcomers regarding FCPS procedures, requirements, and programs.

**Success by Eight** - Success by Eight is an elementary program where students are grouped in a multi-age format rather than a graded structure. Students, ages five to eight, are grouped based on their instructional level and needs. Assessment of student achievement is continuous and results in flexible groupings of students based on skill levels in specific subjects at specific points in time. Integral to Success by Eight is that five-year-olds attend a full-day kindergarten program.

**Summer School** - Programs include opportunities for students to repeat courses, extend their interest in academic areas, and take new courses. There are also special skill-strengthening programs for English for Speakers of Other Languages and special education students. In addition to the regular summer school programs, a variety of other options include institutes, camps, academies, and mini-courses. Fees are charged for tuition and transportation. Scholarships for most programs are available for income-eligible students.

**Suspension Intervention Program (SIP)** - Provides intervention for students in grades 5 and above who have displayed chronically disruptive behavior. The program includes two days (elementary) or three days (secondary) of intensive instruction in alternative ways of dealing with anger and aggressive feelings. In addition, the staff serves as a referral source to other programs. A parent component and follow-up counseling at the base school are significant features of the program.

-- T --

**Technology Plan** - The technology plan receives funding each year to support new initiatives or to provide continued funding for multiyear projects. Requests for technology funding are submitted to the Strategic Technology Planning Council (STPC) for review. The STPC presents recommendations to the Leadership Team and after discussion a technology plan is developed and submitted to the School Board for approval.

**Therapy Services** - Physical and occupational therapy services for special education students with physical and sensory disabilities who require additional support to benefit from their academic programs.

**Title I** - Provides flexible funding that may be used to provide additional instructional staff, professional development, extended-time programs, and other strategies for raising student achievement in high-poverty schools. FCPS uses Title I funding for assistance in language arts and math for low-achieving elementary students.

**Title II A** - Increases student achievement by elevating teacher and principal quality through recruitment, hiring, and retention strategies. The program uses scientifically based professional development interventions and holds districts and schools accountable for improvements in student academic performance.

# Glossary

**Title II D** - Improves student academic achievement through the use of technology in elementary and secondary schools. It is also designed to assist every student in becoming technologically literate by the end of eighth grade and to encourage the effective integration of technology resources and systems with teacher training and professional development.

**Title III** – Provides language instruction assistance for limited English proficient and immigrant students so they may meet the state Standards of Learning required of all students.

**Title IV** - Supports programs to prevent violence in and around schools; prevent the illegal use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco by young people; and foster a safe and drug-free learning environment that supports academic achievement.

**Title V** - Supports state and local efforts to implement promising education reform programs, provide a continuing source of innovation and educational improvement, help meet the special education needs of at-risk and high-need students, and support programs to improve school, student, and teacher performance.

**Title IX** - Title IX is part of a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in any aspect of the educational program.

**Total School Approach (TSA)** - A comprehensive planning model that provides structure, clarity, standards, and support for school committees that design, implement, monitor, and evaluate the total school plan. Funds are provided to schools in the form of grants.

**Turnover** - Savings generated in the employee compensation accounts due to higher-paid, senior employees leaving the system and being replaced by lower-paid employees.

-- V --

**Vacancy** - Savings generated in the employee compensation accounts due to positions being unfilled for some period of time.

**Vehicle Services (DVS)** - The Fairfax County Department of Vehicle Services (formerly EMTA) is the county agency responsible for maintaining all FCPS bus and nonbus vehicles. FCPS pays for these services via interfund transfers.

**Virginia High School League (VHSL)** - A nonprofit organization composed of public high schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The league is a service organization whose purpose is to build better citizens through interscholastic activities such as athletics, drama, debate, forensics, and publications for students throughout Virginia.

**Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)**- A state grant that extends classroom time for children ages three to five years old who participate in the FECEP program.

-- W --

**Washington Area Boards of Education (WABE) Guide** - A statistical report comparing area school districts' salaries, budget, cost per pupil, and class sizes.

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