

Building the Future...Child by Child

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

Curriculum

The instructional program for FCPS is defined by the **Program of Studies**. This comprehensive, rigorous curriculum contains benchmarks outlined in the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL), as well as objectives that offer students opportunities to extend their learning based upon their aptitudes and interests.

Six high school academies offer technical and specialized courses not found at all high schools. Career and Technical Education (CTE), fine arts, and world languages courses, accessed by students from all high schools, offer numerous credentialing opportunities for students who pass industry certification exams.

Advanced academic courses are offered in all high schools and are open to all students who seek academic rigor. Students may enroll in honors courses as underclassmen and continue in Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or dual enrollment courses. FCPS is also home to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, a public magnet school and a Governor's School offering a comprehensive curriculum, emphasizing science, mathematics, and technology.

Graduates

Ninety-two percent of the approximately 12,392 FCPS 2011 high school graduates are attending post-secondary educational institutions. Of this group:

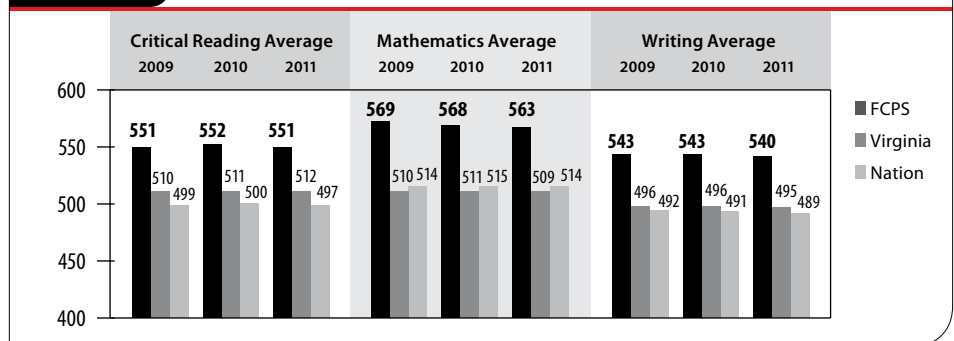
- 62.3 percent attend four-year colleges
- 28.1 percent attend two-year colleges
- 5.5 percent pursue military/employment
- 1.9 percent pursue other educational plans

Grade Point Average and Class Rank

Grade point average (GPA) is calculated on the basis of all high school courses for which credit has been earned, attempted, and previously awarded. FCPS high schools do not rank students.

SAT Scores

The mean SAT scores for FCPS seniors as compared to state and national mean scores.



Grading System

Grading System Prior to September 2009

A (94-100) = 4.0	C (74-79) = 2.0
B+ (90-93) = 3.5	D+ (70-73) = 1.5
B (84-89) = 3.0	D (64-69) = 1.0
C+ (80-83) = 2.5	F (below 64) = 0.0

Grading System Effective September 2009

FCPS adopted a new grading scale effective September 2009. Changes in the FCPS grading policy include a modified ten-point grading scale that uses pluses and minuses. An asterisk (*) is used on the transcript to distinguish B+, C+, and D+ grades earned prior to September 2009. For example, B* = B+.

A (93-100) = 4.0	C (73-76) = 2.0
A- (90-92) = 3.7	C- (70-72) = 1.7
B+ (87-89) = 3.3	D+ (67-69) = 1.3
B (83-86) = 3.0	D (64-66) = 1.0
B- (80-82) = 2.7	F (below 64) = 0.0
C+ (77-79) = 2.3	

P: Pass WF: Withdrawal Fail
 Audit: No Credit WP: Withdrawal Pass

Additional Weighting for Advanced Academic Courses

Students who take year-long high school **honors** courses in English, mathematics, science, or social studies are granted 0.5 added to their GPA calculation for each course taken.

Students who take a year-long **AP** or **IB** course are granted 1.0 added to their GPA calculation for each AP or IB course taken. Also, selected semester-long **dual enrollment** courses are granted 0.5 added to their GPA calculation.

National Achievements

- ▶ In 2011, FCPS had 234 National Merit Semifinalists, which constituted 54 percent of Virginia's semifinalists.
- ▶ Twenty-four seniors were selected as semifinalists in the 2011 National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Black Students, which constituted 36 percent of Virginia's semifinalists.
- ▶ In the 2011 *Washington Post* rankings, all 24 traditional FCPS high schools were in the top seven percent of all American high schools as measured by their student participation in Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams.
- ▶ The number of Advanced Placement exams taken by FCPS students has risen from 26,040 in 2006 to 32,230 in 2010. Additionally, more than 70 percent of the advanced placement tests taken by FCPS students in 2010 received a score of 3 or above (on a grading scale of 1-5).
- ▶ In 2010-11, 66 percent of graduates earned advanced diplomas.

Community

FCPS is the eleventh largest school system in the nation with approximately 177,629 students. Located in Fairfax County, Virginia, FCPS is the most populous jurisdiction in Virginia and the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area, with more than one million residents. Approximately 58 percent of all county residents over 25 years of age have completed four years of college.

FCPS has 27 high schools with a total high school enrollment of 55,611. The average number of course units taken by each graduate is 28.6. The average class size in high school is 29.5 students. The 2011-12 average per-pupil cost for high school students is \$11,432.