

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 31, 2005

**FCPS REVISES MIDDLE SCHOOL HEALTH CURRICULUM TO INCLUDE
GANGS, BULLYING, VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is introducing a revised health education curriculum with new, expanded units on gang activity, bullying, and violence for the 2005-06 school year. The revised Program of Studies (POS) will be distributed to middle school health teachers at a special in-service workshop beginning at 8 a.m. on Thursday, September 1, at Marshall High School.

Ann Monday, FCPS assistant superintendent for the Instructional Services Department, will introduce the new health curriculum to teachers along with Charles Peters, deputy chief of patrol operations, Fairfax County Police Department. Fairfax City Police will also be on hand. In addition to the teachers, school resource officers (SROs) who serve middle schools—and will be coteaching some of the new lessons—will attend the training.

The new POS is a result of collaboration with FCPS' Instructional Services Department and the Office of Safe and Drug Free Youth Office. It also includes a new nutrition unit, based on revised federal guidelines released in April, and a new consumer health unit.

The 2005-06 school year begins Tuesday, September 6, in FCPS.

###

Note: Media representatives are welcome to attend the opening session from 8 to 9 a.m. FCPS staff members will be available for interviews following the opening session. Marshall High School is located at 7731 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church. For more information, contact Mary Marks, health and physical education instructional coordinator, at 703-208-7735 or mary.marks@fcps.edu.