

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NINETY-NINE PERCENT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EARN FULL STATE ACCREDITATION**

Ninety-nine percent of all Fairfax County public schools have earned full accreditation from the Virginia Department of Education and 100 percent of Fairfax County Public Schools' general education schools are now fully accredited, based on the 2004-05 Standards of Learning (SOL) tests. Two alternative schools in FCPS are accredited with warning, both in science. The 99 percent of all schools accredited is an increase from 95 percent of Fairfax County schools earning full accreditation in 2003-04, and from 91 percent earning full accreditation in 2002-03.

A total of 186 of 188 Fairfax County public schools are now fully accredited. The number of schools accredited with warning has decreased from six last year to two this year. South County Secondary School, which opened September 6, is conditionally accredited as a new school and not included in the calculations. Definitions of the accreditation classifications can be found at the Virginia School Report Card web site at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src/accreditation.shtml>.

"Each year, we move closer to our goal of having 100 percent of all our schools make state accreditation," said FCPS Superintendent Jack D. Dale. "The vast majority of our schools have succeeded, and they continue to strive for improvement by using strategic data-driven decision making. In just five years, the number of fully accredited schools has gone from 112 to 186. This is a testament to the dedication and focus of our staff and students."

FCPS schools are not only achieving the pass rate needed to earn state accreditation in the core content areas but are exceeding the minimum requirement, with many schools surpassing a 90 percent pass rate. The table below shows the number and percentage of eligible schools that earned a passing rate of 90 or

greater in the pertinent content areas. The number of eligible schools varies due to the grade configurations in each school.

In middle schools and high schools, an adjusted pass rate of at least 70 percent in all four subject areas is required for full accreditation. In elementary schools, a combined accreditation pass rate of at least 75 percent on English tests in grades 3 and 5 is required for full accreditation. Elementary schools also must achieve accreditation pass rates of at least 70 percent in mathematics, grade 5 science, and grade 5 history and pass rates of at least 50 percent in grade 3 science and grade 3 history.

Schools With a 90 Percent or Higher Passing Rate in an Accreditation Category

	Grades 3 and 5 English	Grade 8 and/or High School English	All Math	Grade 3 History	History Other Than Grade 3	Grade 3 Science	Science Other Than Grade 3
Eligible Schools	138	52	188	137	187	137	187
Number Above 90 Percent	106	34	136	123	166	112	102
Percent Above 90 Percent	77%	65%	72%	90%	89%	82%	55%

Throughout the state of Virginia, 92 percent of schools earned full accreditation in 2004-05, increasing from 84 percent in 2003-04. The total percentage of schools that have a status of accredited with warning in the state is eight percent compared to one percent in FCPS.

The attached table shows the overall accreditation attained by all schools in FCPS as well as the passing rates in each content area. <http://www.fcps.edu/mediapub/pressrel/accreditationtable.pdf>.

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Note: For additional information, contact Ray Diroll at 703-208-7779.