

Budget Update

April 4, 2008



**Building the Future...
Child by Child**
FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introduction

On February 14, 2008, the School Board adopted the FY 2009 advertised budget, which Dan Storck, School Board chair, presented to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on April 1. In his presentation, Storck spoke of FCPS' excellence as a school system and its remarkably high student achievement.

This Week's Topic: FCPS Realizes High Student Academic Achievement

The school system is focused on excellence in the classroom, in the school, and in the management of its schools. This commitment is demonstrated by the wide variety of awards that schools, students, and staff members receive and by many outside measures of achievement and efficiency.

FCPS' focus on student academic achievement continues to pay off as evidenced in these accomplishments:

- FCPS' SAT average of 1639 exceeds both the state average of 1520 and the national average of 1511.
- Ninety-one percent of FCPS graduates continue on to postsecondary education, and 67 percent of special education graduates continue on to higher education.
- The number of Advanced Placement (AP) exams taken rose from 21,240 in 2004 to 28,597 in 2007, a 34.6 percent increase.
- In its May 2007 issue, *Newsweek* magazine listed all FCPS high schools in the top 3 percent of public high schools in the nation, based on the annual Challenge Index, which measures a school's effort to challenge students.
- FCPS had 209 students named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists for 2007.
- In the November 2007 issue of *U.S. News and World Report*, three FCPS high schools made the 2008 ranking of America's Best High Schools. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology was ranked as the number one gold medal school in the nation. Two other FCPS schools, Langley High School and Oakton High School, were also named in the top 100 list.
- FCPS received a "Gold Medal" rating from *Expansion Management* magazine in its 2007 rankings in which more than 2,800 school districts, with a combined enrollment of over 35 million students, were evaluated; FCPS has received this Gold Medal District rating every year since the ratings began in 1990.
- Ninety-nine percent of all FCPS general education schools meet or exceed the Virginia Standards of Accreditation.

"Focusing on student achievement is what we are doing, what we will continue to do, and what we are committed to keep doing in this constantly changing, globalized world that we now live and work in," said Storck in his presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

Members of the public may comment on budget priorities at School Board public hearings on May 14, and, if needed, May 15, 2008, at Jackson Middle School.

Next Week's Topic: FCPS Student Membership Reflects Our Community

For current budget information: www.fcps.edu/fs

To ask a question, e-mail: budinfo@fcps.edu or call 571-423-3600

To voice comments on advertised budget priorities: www.fcps.edu, Budget Ideas

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