

# South County Secondary School

## High School Student Services Frequently Asked Questions

### How do I find out how my student is doing in class?

The best way to find out how your child is performing in a class is to contact the teacher by email or phone. All staff email addresses are available on the [SCSS website](#).

### How do I set up a conference with my child's teacher?

If you would like to schedule a conference with an individual teacher, you can contact the teacher directly to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet. In some cases, there may be more serious issues that need to be addressed such as excessive absenteeism, multiple course failures, a downward trend in performance, or long-term illness. In these situations, you should contact your child's school counselor to schedule a meeting with several or all of your child's teachers.

### What resources are available for my struggling student?

One of the best resources available to your child is his/her current classroom teacher. Staying after for extra help is a critical component to getting back on track. Late buses run after school on Mondays. Some families also choose to seek private tutoring for their students outside of school at their own expense. The FCPS website provides a list of [tutors](#).

### I suspect my student is having difficulty learning. What do I do?

When a student is having difficulty, the first resource is generally the classroom teacher who can provide input about your child's academic achievement and suggest strategies to improve his/her performance. If your child continues to struggle, contact your student's counselor for additional resources and/or strategies.

### How do I know if my student is going to graduate?

Each year, we update our [South County Secondary High School Course Selection Guide](#) which outlines the FCPS Graduation Requirements and diploma types. After reviewing it carefully, if you still have questions contact your child's school counselor who will be able to review your child's transcript with you. All contact information for the SCSS high school counselors are on the [Student Services Homepage](#).

### How do I know if my student will be retained or promoted?

A student must have a minimum of five (5) credits to be a Sophomore (Grade 10), a minimum of ten (10) credits to be a Junior (Grade 11), and a minimum of fifteen (15) credits and a plan to graduate by the following August to be a Senior (Grade 12).

### How do I request a transcript to be mailed to colleges?

The process for requesting college application documents is described in the downloadable [Senior Handout Packet](#). The [transcript release form](#) is required and must be submitted to Victoria Weiler. For further questions contact please contact her at [julie.marquardt@fcps.edu](mailto:julie.marquardt@fcps.edu) or 703-446-1632.

### How do I request a copy of my transcript if I have graduated or withdrawn from South County Secondary School?

Please contact the transcript administrative assistant, Victoria Weiler, at [julie.marquardt@fcps.edu](mailto:julie.marquardt@fcps.edu) or 703-446-1632.

### How do I expunge a middle school grade from my student's high school transcript?

In the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, parents may request that a student's high school mathematics, world language, or ESOL course (5720-5730) be expunged after the completion of the school year. The ["Request to Expunge High School Courses taken in Middle School" form must be submitted to the student's middle school \(7<sup>th</sup>\) or high school \(8<sup>th</sup> grade\) counselor before the beginning of the second quarter of the next school year](#). Once the school receives the written request form to expunge the grade, the middle school Director of Student Services (7<sup>th</sup> grade student) or high school Director of Student Services (8<sup>th</sup> grade student) will complete the process to completely remove the course from the student's transcript.

### How do I arrange a prearranged absence?

Arrangements for a pre-arranged absence must be made at least 72 hours (3 days) before the absence occurs. A note stating the dates and reason for the absence must be presented to the Attendance Office (HS). If approved, the student will receive a pre-arranged absence form outlining the conditions related to a pre-arranged absence. The student will then see his/her administrator to obtain a signature on the form. Next, the form must be presented to all teachers for notification and then returned to the Attendance Office. If the absence is not approved and the student does not attend school, then the absences will be unexcused. Be aware that a student with a prearranged absence is expected to be fully prepared on the day of his/her return (i.e. homework and tests) and will assume the responsibility for requesting assignments before leaving.

### How do I begin to research colleges for my child? I would like to assist my student in researching careers and colleges, what resources can I utilize?

Family Connections is an outstanding resource for students and parents and can be accessed through your student's blackboard account. There are many other resources available for researching colleges and careers. Mrs. Ostrom, Career Specialist is available to answer questions, [gayle.ostrom@fcps.edu](mailto:gayle.ostrom@fcps.edu) or 703-446-1915. The [Career Center website](#) is also a great source of information to help you get started.

### How do I begin to look for Scholarship money for college?

Family Connections which is accessible via your student's Blackboard account, has a searchable scholarship database. In addition, the [Career Center website](#) has links to multiple scholarship websites. Seniors should also be checking with the colleges to which they are applying.

**What resources are available to assist my child in preparing for the SAT's and/or ACT's?** Our school has purchased The Method Test Prep, an SAT/ACT online prep course, for all our high school students. This program is an excellent, free resource for our students. The new Method Test Preparation is in Family Connections. Family Connections can be accessed through the students' blackboard 24/7 account. To access Method Test Prep the student clicks on the college tab and then test preparation. Method Test Prep SAT and ACT test preparation includes lessons, quizzes, sample essays, vocabulary builder, practice tests and more. Students can increase scores by preparing for college admissions tests by completing review lessons, doing practice questions, taking practice tests, reading, writing sample essays and improving vocabulary.