



Profile 2008-2009

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS • FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

Fairfax County Public Schools, the twelfth largest school system in the nation (approximately 168,384 students), is located in Northern Virginia in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area.

COMMUNITY

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is located in Fairfax County, Virginia, which has a population of over 1,045,000. Approximately 58 percent of all county residents over 25 years of age have completed four years of college.

FCPS has 28 high schools with a total high school membership of 46,827. The average number of course units taken by each graduate is 28.5. The average class size in high school is 29 students. The average per-pupil cost for high school students is projected to be \$13,340.

ACHIEVEMENT

FCPS enrolls 13 percent of public high school juniors in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 2008, FCPS had 194 National Merit Semifinalists, which constituted 50 percent of Virginia's semifinalists. Additionally, 21 seniors were selected as semifinalists in the 2008 National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Black Students.

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

CLASS RANK

FCPS high schools do not rank students.

SAT SCORES

	2007			2008		
	Critical Reading	Math	Writing	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
National	502	515	494	502	515	494
State	511	511	498	511	512	499
FCPS	545	559	535	547	565	542

GRADUATES

Ninety-three percent of the approximately 12,005 FCPS 2008 high school graduates are attending post-secondary educational institutions. Of this group:

- 65 percent attend four-year colleges
- 26 percent attend two-year colleges
- 4 percent pursue military/employment
- 2 percent pursue other educational plans

CURRICULUM

The basic instructional program for FCPS is defined by The Program of Studies, a series of documents containing the objectives for all subjects. All high schools offer both academic and career and technical education courses.

Advanced, highly specialized career and technical courses in Engineering and Scientific Technology, Health and Human Services, International Studies and Business, or Communications and the Arts, are offered at Fairfax County High Schools Academies.

Rigorous advanced academic studies are offered at all high schools through either the Advanced Placement (AP) Program or the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program. Preparation for these programs is provided through Honors, Pre-AP, and Pre-IB courses. The highest level courses offered by FCPS are AP, IB and select dual enrollment.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) is a FCPS public magnet school and a Governor's School for Science and Technology in Northern Virginia. TJHSST serves students who are selected in a competitive process and who intend to pursue college preparation in the sciences, engineering, or related fields.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Minimum graduation requirements are 22 credits in the following areas: 4 English, 4 social studies, 3 science, 3 math, 2 physical education, 1 fine and practical arts, and 5 electives. Students must also pass six designated Standards of Learning tests.

GRADING SYSTEM

Symbols	Scale	Descriptor	Quality Points
A	94-100	Excellent	4.0
B+	90-93		3.5
B	84-89	Above average	3.0
C+	80-83		2.5
C	74-79		2.0
D+	70-73		1.5
D	64-69	Below average	1.0
F	Below 64	Failure	0.0

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

AP, IB and select dual enrollment classes are weighed for students who complete the course and take the designated exam.

Declaration of Nondiscrimination

No student, employee, or applicant for employment in the Fairfax County Public Schools shall, on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, or disability, or age (under certain conditions), be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Compliance is coordinated by the directors of the following: Office of Design and Construction Services (located at 10640 Page Avenue, Fairfax Virginia 22030, (703-246-6270) regarding access to facilities; Office of Equity and Compliance (571-423-3050 or TTY 703-280-9833), regarding equal employment opportunity, discrimination, and sexual harassment issues; Office of Monitoring and Compliance (571-423-4210), Department of Special Services, regarding programs and activities for students with disabilities. Correspondence may be addressed to the above offices and sent to 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, Virginia 22042.