

FCPS: TEAMING UP WITH COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Efficiency and cost-effectiveness—these are high priorities for both Fairfax County Public Schools and Fairfax County government. Working smarter and working together, the two organizations effectively operate efficient programs and provide county residents with the services they need at a cost they can afford.

Here are some of the things that the government and the school system do together:

- Fairfax County Public Schools' food services team is so efficient that the county government has contracted with the FCPS Office of Food and Nutrition Services to provide more than 97,200 meals for senior citizens annually. FCPS also manages the vending machine program in many county facilities.
- The county's Office for Children provides School-Age Child Care (SACC) before school, after kindergarten, and after school to eligible families in many FCPS elementary schools.
- Unprecedented cooperation between the school system and county public safety officials has been an integral part of developing a crisis management operation that is featured as a national model by the federal Department of Homeland Security.
- FCPS works with the county Health Department to control outbreaks of gastrointestinal and influenza-like illnesses by using the School Illness Monitoring System (SIMS). FCPS is also working with the Health Department on a coordinated response to a potential pandemic flu outbreak.
- A three-way partnership between the county, the school system, and private industry helped to build the new South County Secondary School.
- Most of the public meeting places available to county residents are FCPS facilities. In many cases, the facilities are provided free of charge to organizations such as 4-H, scouting groups, county employee organizations, and cultural and civic groups; 9,500 applications to use school facilities were processed in FY 2005.
- Fairfax County's outstanding recreation program depends on the community's use of school athletic fields, gyms, and other facilities.
- FCPS and the county work together on so many cost-saving programs that other governments cite us as a benchmark alliance and copy our best practices. From a single print shop to athletic fields and gymnasiums and from shared vehicle maintenance operations to communications and crisis planning coordination, Fairfax County Public Schools and Fairfax County represent an efficient and cost-effective team.