



FCPS: APPLYING THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

Concerned about the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act? Here are four things you should know about how the law will affect Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and the quality of your child's education.

- NCLB requires that states and local school systems develop strong accountability systems. Fairfax County Public Schools already has a comprehensive accountability system in place, and FCPS students regularly score well above the national average on standardized tests.
- NCLB requires all schools to make "adequate yearly progress" on standardized tests. School test scores must increase incrementally each year, reaching the target goal of 100 percent passing rates for all subgroups of students (e.g., special education, limited English proficient) in the 2013-14 school year.
- NCLB requires all teachers and paraprofessionals be "highly qualified" by the 2005-06 school year. Each teacher must hold a bachelor's degree and pass a rigorous state licensing exam, and paraprofessionals must be able to demonstrate knowledge of and the ability to help in instruction.
- NCLB does not replace the Virginia accreditation system, which holds schools accountable through objective measurement based on the Standards of Learning (SOL) tests.

FCPS is working with officials from the Virginia Department of Education to meet the benchmarks for adequate yearly progress and satisfy NCLB's targets and to ensure that all teachers and paraprofessionals meet the new federal standards. FCPS is committed to making sure that all children learn and that no child is left behind.

FCPS will keep parents abreast of the school system's efforts to meet the requirements of NCLB through their local schools. Information is also posted on the FCPS web site at: www.fcps.edu/news/nclb.htm.

More information about NCLB is available from the U.S. Department of Education at: www.nochildleftbehind.gov/, and from the Virginia Department of Education at: www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/nclb/.