

A HANDBOOK FOR FCPS PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND STAFF MEMBERS



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OVERVIEW

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Area (square miles)	395
Population (2015)	1,111,620

SCHOOLS AND CENTERS (TOTAL)

198

Elementary schools (K-6)	141
Middle schools (6-8)	3
Middle schools (7-8)	20
Secondary schools (7-12)	3
High schools (9-12)	22
Alternative high schools	2
Special education centers	7

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS AND LEARNING CENTERS

48

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT

2016-17	186,842
Percentage of all Virginia students enrolled in FCPS	14.5%
FCPS national ranking by enrollment	10th

STAFF POSITIONS—FULL-TIME

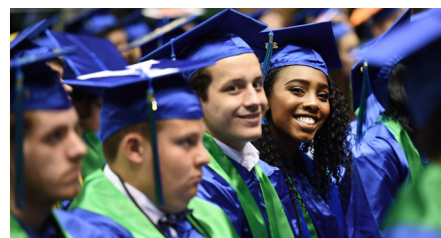
2016-17	23,988
School-Based	92.3%
Nonschool-Based	7.7%

SCHOOL OPERATING BUDGET

2016-17	\$2.7 billion
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AVERAGE COST PER STUDENT

2016-17	\$14,432
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Facts About FCPS Student Achievement

- Individual students and groups annually earn honors and awards in all academic, extracurricular, and athletic areas in regional, state, and national competitions.
- The four-year Virginia on-time graduation rate for Fairfax County was 92.5 percent for 2015.
- 93.1 percent of high school graduates continued on to some form of postsecondary education in 2014.
- The dropout rate for school year 2014-15 was 1.37 percent.
- FCPS students in the class of 2015 had an average combined SAT score of 1669. This far exceeds the average combined scores of 1523 in Virginia and 1462 in the nation.
- In 2014-15, 66.9 percent of graduates earned advanced diplomas.
- The number of Advanced Placement exams taken by FCPS students rose from 32,230 in 2010 to 37,291 in 2015. More than 70 percent of the advanced placement tests taken by FCPS students in 2015 rated a score of 3 or above (on a grading scale of 1-5).
- In the 2016 *Washington Post* rankings, all eligible FCPS schools were in the top nine percent of all American high schools as measured by their student participation in Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams.
- FCPS students earned more than 18,500 industry certifications and licenses during the 2015-16 school year. Career and Technical Education certifications are offered in 38 categories.



COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME

Communication Tools

FCPS is committed to providing parents with regular news and information about issues that may affect their children at either the school system level or the individual school level. FCPS provides information in many ways, such as:

FCPS Website

The FCPS website—www.fcps.edu—provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date information available.

E-Notify

Parents of Fairfax County Public Schools students and employees of the school system are automatically enrolled to receive e-Notify Communications. FCPS central offices and schools use e-Notify to provide families and employees with three types of messages—attendance, emergency (school closings and delays), and other essential communications—via e-mail, phone calls, and texts sent through the BlackboardConnect system. It is important that parents keep their child's emergency contact information up-to-date with the school.

News You Choose

News You Choose is a subscription e-mail service for parents, students, community members, and citizens who want “non-critical” news, events, and updates from FCPS. Subscribers may also sign up to receive such information from the schools of their choice.

To subscribe, go to www.fcps.edu and click on Sign Up Now.

SIS Parent Account

This resource provides parent and guardian access to your child's student information, including attendance, report cards, class schedules, gradebook (for middle and high school students), course history, discipline, health, and school information, establishing another form of communication between home and school. Parents use the same username and password as the login for both SIS and FCPS 24-7 Learning. To create an account that will allow access to both, contact your school for an activation key.

Cable TV

Fairfax County Public Schools operates three open cable TV channels—21, 25, and 99. In addition, FCPS operates three internal channels—i-Net 118, 119, and 120—that can be viewed only in FCPS facilities. Funded by franchise fees paid by Cox, Comcast, and Verizon FIOS, these channels provide residents news and information about the schools, emergency messages, curriculum programming, and more. Our flagship channel, Red Apple 21, offers a block of shows all about FCPS—including *@fcpsnews*, *In Other Words*, and *Meet the Author*. Red Apple 21 is also webcast live 24-7 at www.fcps.edu.

FCPS original programming is also available online on the FCPS YouTube channel. A program guide, *Fine Tuning*, is also available online.

FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard)

This online resource allows FCPS to extend learning beyond the traditional school day and beyond school facilities. Students, parents, and teachers are invited to use FCPS 24-7 Learning to access homework and classroom assignments, view class calendars, and explore links to enrichment activities. Parents are encouraged to register for a Parent Account (see SIS Parent Account) to see all their children's courses, emergency care forms, and Family Connection for middle and high school in one place. For more information, go to www.fcps.edu and click on FCPS 24-7 Learning.

FCPS Mobile App

Fairfax County Public Schools has a mobile app for parents and students to provide easy access to individual school and district information you need where and when you need it. The FCPS Mobile app is free and available now for download on Android devices, iPhones, and iPads in the iTunes or Google Play stores.

Media Relations

FCPS regularly communicates with many local television and radio stations and newspapers in the greater Washington, D.C., area that provide information to residents about the school system.

Social Media

FCPS is on Facebook, where news, emergency messages, and information about current issues are posted. To follow FCPS on Facebook, visit www.facebook.com/fcpsva and select ‘Like’ at the top of the page. FCPS is also on Twitter; to follow FCPS on Twitter, visit www.twitter.com/fcpsnews and click on ‘Follow.’ In addition, parents, students, employees, and citizens can view videos featured on Channel 21 on YouTube. The FCPS YouTube channel can be found at www.youtube.com/user/FairfaxCountySchools.

Backpack Letters

When needed, these letters are sent home with elementary and middle school students—to keep parents informed about news at an individual school—by the principal, the administrative staff, classroom teachers, and other staff members. Backpack letters may also be sent by e-mail through the e-Notify system.

Fliers

FCPS also provides periodic opportunities to nonprofit organizations to distribute fliers or other informational materials about events and services they provide that are related to FCPS' educational mission as permitted by the current version of FCPS Regulation 1367. These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Fairfax County School Board, the Superintendent, or your child's school.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME

School Newsletters

Many schools use social media and produce their own newsletters to provide regular information about upcoming events, important dates, ways to get involved and volunteer, classroom updates, tips on helping one's child succeed in school, and messages from school staff members. Newsletters may be sent home with students or by e-mail through the News You Choose system.

Parent Liaisons and Bilingual Community Liaisons

Parent liaisons are available in most FCPS schools to help parents better understand the school system and advocate for their children's education. Parent liaisons are often bilingual and promote communication between the home and the school to increase family involvement and support student achievement. Parents may call their child's school to obtain contact information for the liaison(s).

Bilingual community liaisons are available at the Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, South County Government Center, and Lake Anne-Reston Government Center registration sites to provide families with information about school and community services. For more information, contact Family and School Partnerships at 703-204-4300.

Parent Information Phone Lines

For more general FCPS information and help in finding resources in their child's school and in the community, parents may call the Parent Information Phone Line and leave a message. Parents will receive a return phone call within 24 hours, Monday through Friday.

Amharic: 571-423-4957
 Arabic: 571-423-4952
 Chinese: 571-423-4953
 Farsi: 571-423-4954
 Korean: 571-423-4951
 Spanish: 571-423-4950
 Urdu: 571-423-4955
 Vietnamese: 571-423-4956

School Information

If you have a question or concern that involves a **specific student enrolled in FCPS**, the best first step is to discuss it with your child's teachers, then the principal. If needed, you may contact the assistant superintendent for the region serving your school.

- **Region 1** - 571-423-1110
(Herndon, Langley, Madison, South Lakes and Oakton pyramids)
- **Region 2** - 571-423-1120
(Annandale, Falls Church, McLean, Marshall, Stuart, and TJHSST pyramids)
- **Region 3** - 571-423-1130
(Edison, Lee, Hayfield, Mount Vernon and West Potomac pyramids)
- **Region 4** - 571-423-1140
(Robinson, Lake Braddock, West Springfield, South County, and Centreville pyramids)
- **Region 5** - 571-423-1150
(Woodson, Fairfax, Westfield, and Chantilly pyramids)



For information about any school system issue, go to **www.fcps.edu** and click on **Contact Us**.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

School Calendar 2016-17

September 6	School begins*
October 7	Student holiday
October 10.....	Columbus Day holiday
November 4	First grading period ends*+ Students released two hours early
November 7-8.....	Student holidays
November 23.....	Students released two hours early
November 24-25.....	Thanksgiving break
December 19-January 2	Winter break
January 16.....	Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday holiday
January 20.....	Inauguration Day Student holiday
February 3.....	Second grading period ends*+ Students released two hours early
February 6.....	Student holiday
February 20.....	Washington's birthday holiday#
March 24	Student holiday
April 7.....	Third grading period ends*+ Students released two hours early
April 10-14.....	Spring Break
April 17.....	Student holiday
May 26.....	Students released two hours early
May 29.....	Memorial Day holiday
June 23.....	Last day of school*+N

* Schools are open.

+ Report cards are provided to parents at the end of each grading period and at the end of the school year.

N Early release on the last official day of school.

Makeup Days

Days Missed	Makeup Days
Up to 13	Built in, no makeup required
14	No makeup required
15	Monday, April 17
16	No makeup required

For more information on the school calendar, go to www.fcps.edu and search for Calendar.

School Hours

The Office of Transportation Services works with school principals to develop the start and end times for each school to provide effective and cost efficient service. Bell schedules are approved by the Superintendent of Schools.

School Schedule Changes

Inclement weather or other school emergencies (such as power failures or extreme temperatures) may result in closing, delayed opening, or early dismissal of schools or a change in schedule for adult education classes. If this happens:

- Emergency closing messages are sent out by e-mail to subscribers of the News You Choose e-mail notification system. To sign up for these messages, go to www.fcps.edu and click on News You Choose.
- Radio and TV stations, including cable Channel 21 (a channel programmed by the school system), carry the news as soon as such decisions are made.
- This information is displayed on the school system home page: www.fcps.edu.
- Information is also posted on the FCPS Facebook and Twitter pages.

Parents and students are encouraged to use these sources to keep updated on schedule changes.

FCPS schools are open unless information is posted or sent that indicates schools are closed, opening late, or closing early. Decisions on whether to close schools are not taken lightly. All decisions take the safety of all FCPS children into account. FCPS relies on information from emergency management and state highway administrators about conditions **for all roads**—not just major highways. FCPS personnel assigned to different regions of the county go out and inspect the conditions of roads, sidewalks, and FCPS parking lots and bus lanes. FCPS also confers with other area school systems before announcing a decision.

In order to be prepared for an unanticipated change in schedule, working parents need to make arrangements in advance about where their children should go in case of an early closing.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

When schools are closed for the day, the following will apply:

- FCPS' goal is to announce a decision by 5 a.m.
- Extracurricular activities, interscholastic contests, team practices, field trips, middle school after-school programs, adult and community education classes, professional learning and training courses, recreation programs, and community use in schools and on school grounds are canceled.
- School Age Child Care (SACC) centers are closed.

When schools are opened two hours late, the following will apply:

- Morning preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) classes are canceled. Full-day preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) classes start two hours later than the regular schedule. Afternoon preschool (special education) starts on the regular schedule.
- Morning field trips are canceled.
- Morning transportation for high school academy classes is canceled. Transportation for afternoon academy classes will be provided.
- School Age Child Care (SACC) centers will be open at 7 a.m.
- Adult and community education classes will start on time.

When schools are closed two hours early due to worsening weather conditions during the day, the following will apply:

- FCPS' goal is to make a decision by 10 a.m. and to begin communicating the decision at that time.
- Morning preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) programs are dismissed at approximately 11 a.m. Full-day preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) classes are dismissed two hours earlier than the regular schedule. Afternoon preschool (special education) and Family and Early Childhood Education (Head Start) classes are canceled.
- Extended day care and School Age Child Care (SACC) centers will stay open until 6:15 p.m. SACC Administration requests parents make every effort to pick up children earlier, if possible.
- Extracurricular activities, interscholastic contests, team practices, field trips, middle school after-school programs, adult and community education classes, professional learning and training courses, and recreation programs, and community use in schools and on school grounds are canceled.



To learn more about how FCPS administrators decide to delay or close schools during inclement weather, check out a short video that is available online by going to www.fcps.edu and searching for Weather Cancellation Procedures.



SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Detailed information about individual schools is available from each school and in School Profiles, which can be accessed on the FCPS website, www.fcps.edu. Free access to the Internet is available at Fairfax County public libraries.

The schools are organized into five regions, each comprising four to six high schools and their feeder elementary and middle schools. A list of phone numbers for each region assistant superintendent can be found on page 28.

School Ranking

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) does not rank its schools. All FCPS schools and centers share a level of excellence that has earned the school system a national reputation for high student achievement. Among the factors that make FCPS one of the top school systems in the nation are:

- Talented and committed teachers and support personnel, as evidenced by the increasing number of FCPS teachers with the prestigious National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification.
- Excellent curriculum designed to meet and exceed state standards and federal guidelines.
- Appropriately planned, designed, constructed, and operated facilities along with the technology and equipment that are necessary to promote learning and collaboration. All classrooms are wired for Internet connectivity.
- Honors and awards earned by individual students and groups annually in all academic, extracurricular, and athletic areas in regional, state, and national competitions.

While all Fairfax County schools share the same commitment to excellence, each school has a unique learning culture. Some offer specialized programs—such as world languages partial immersion at the elementary level and the International Baccalaureate program at the secondary level. Each school reflects the community that surrounds it.

Use of Facilities

FCPS encourages the use of school facilities by community groups. To submit a request online or for detailed information about community use of facilities, go to www.fcps.edu and search for Community Use. For questions, contact the Community Use Section at 571-423-2340.



To determine which schools serve your particular address, go to <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary>.

If you have questions concerning boundary information, please call the boundary information phone line at 571-423-2330 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



STARTING SCHOOL

Starting School in Fairfax County Public Schools

Whether you are new to Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) because your child has just reached school age or because you are new to the area, FCPS is pleased to have the opportunity to serve you.

To help you prepare for your child's entrance into Fairfax County Public Schools, here is some information about the school system's prekindergarten-12 program.



Additional information for kindergarten parents and for parents of older children new to FCPS can be found by going to www.fcps.edu and searching for Registration.

Paving the Way to Kindergarten

Children entering kindergarten demonstrate a variety of learning behaviors. Behaviors that are indicators of kindergarten success include the following:

Oral Language, Reading, Writing

- Says his or her first name.
- Follows simple instructions.
- Begins to share thoughts and opinions.
- Answers simple questions.
- Listens to stories read each day.
- Recites some nursery rhymes.
- Retells a familiar event or story.
- Participates in word play (cat, fat, mat).
- Identifies some colors.
- Discusses a favorite story.
- Talks about pictures.
- Pretends to read a book.
- Identifies some letters in the alphabet.
- Writes his or her first name.
- Attempts writing by using scribbling or marks that resemble print.

Mathematics

- Shows awareness of shapes in the environment.
- Begins to match objects (socks, shoes, mittens, gloves).
- Begins to notice similarities and differences.
- Shows awareness of sorting and classifying objects.
- Uses math language (bigger and smaller).
- Attempts to play counting games.
- Attempts to count to ten.
- Touches or points at objects when counting.
- Begins to compare objects by size.

Social and Emotional

- Sometimes makes choices.
- Begins to take turns.
- Uses self-help skills (dressing, toileting, eating).
- Begins to share with others.
- Frequently uses self-control.
- Helps with chores at home.
- Begins to demonstrate independence.
- Frequently completes tasks with adult assistance.
- Begins to show self-confidence.
- Sometimes tries new things.
- Expresses thoughts and feelings.

Physical

- Runs, walks, gallops, or jumps.
- Throws and catches a ball.
- Alternates feet when walking up steps.
- Attempts to button and zip.
- Assembles easy puzzles.
- Uses crayons.

The Typical Kindergarten Day

A kindergarten day includes a balance of large-group, small-group, individual, and center learning experiences, as well as many opportunities for movement, active play, and hands-on investigations. Students participate in activities offered to other primary-grade children, such as library, art, music, and physical education (PE) classes. Each day also includes snack and lunch time.

Registering Your Child for School

- Children who are five on or before September 30 are eligible to enter kindergarten that school year. Parents of younger children can find resources through the FCPS early childhood program by going to www.fcps.edu and searching for Early Childhood Education.
- A child who will be six years old on or before September 30 must attend school.
- A qualifying parent may elect to provide home instruction for his or her school-age child in lieu of school attendance. More information is available by calling 571-423-4460 or by going to www.fcps.edu searching for Home Instruction.

STARTING SCHOOL

- All FCPS elementary schools provide full-day kindergarten.
- Most FCPS elementary schools offer grades K-6, most middle schools offer grades 7-8, and all high schools offer grades 9-12. Exceptions are noted in school profiles available by going to www.fcps.edu and typing in the name of the school.

Registration Procedures

- Determine which school your child will attend. The FCPS boundary locator service provides the names of the elementary, middle, and high schools assigned to each home in the county. To access the service visit <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary>.
- Contact your child's school to make arrangements for enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together in late March or early April for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many schools host an orientation or open house.
- You will need to register your child at the school he or she will attend. To enroll a student, the following are required:
 - ◆ The presence of a parent or legal guardian with whom the child resides in Fairfax County the preponderance of the school week. (A photo ID will be requested.)
 - ◆ Original birth certificate.
 - ◆ Proof of residency in Fairfax County, generally a lease or a deed. Supporting documentation may be required.
 - ◆ Transfer slip or report card from the previous school and/or original transcripts.
 - ◆ Certificate of a recent (within 12 months) physical examination by a licensed physician for a student being admitted for the first time into elementary school. A transfer student entering elementary school must provide either a record of a physical exam completed prior to enrolling in the previous school or a record of a physical exam completed within the past 12 months.
 - ◆ Evidence of a negative tuberculin skin test or a normal chest X-ray administered within 90 days for any student who has resided in a foreign country (with the exceptions of Canada, Western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand) during the last five years for a consecutive period of five or more months.
 - ◆ Evidence of required immunizations: Virginia law requires students to be immunized against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, and hepatitis B. Students born on or after January 1, 1997, are required to have been immunized against chicken pox. Effective October 1, 2008, a complete series of three doses of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is required for females. The first dose shall be administered before the child enters the 6th grade. After reviewing educational materials approved by the Board of Health, the parent or guardian, at the parent's or guardian's sole discretion, may elect for the child not to receive the HPV vaccine. Students who lack required documentation of immunizations may be barred from attendance. Detailed information about immunization requirements is available in FCPS Regulation 2101. Objections based on religious grounds may be discussed with the principal.

- Registration forms are available online by going to www.fcps.edu and searching for Registration.

Many Programs Available at the Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services

Fairfax County Public Schools Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services provides a variety of programs, resources, and services for parents in one convenient location. The Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services is accessible by Fairfax Connector, Metrobus, and Metrorail (Orange Line: Dunn Loring-Merrifield station) and is located at 2334 Gallows Road in Dunn Loring.

The FCPS offices that are based at Dunn Loring and the services they offer include:

Student Registration

Student Registration provides school enrollment for:

- Students whose home languages are other than or in addition to English. (Multilingual registrars are available to help families with limited English proficiency.)
- Foreign exchange students and students requiring I-20 student visas.
- Students in foster care placed by other Virginia counties or by out-of-state agencies.



Additional Student Registration sites are located at:

11484 Washington Plaza, West,
Suite 310, Reston, VA 20190

South County Government Center
8350 Richmond Hwy., Suite 123
Alexandria, VA 22309

Contact Student Registration at 703-204-6740 for information about registration.

FCPS has implemented procedures for the enrollment of homeless students. Parents or guardians of families experiencing homelessness may contact the Homeless Liaison Office at 571-423-4322 or any Fairfax County public school for enrollment assistance.

For recorded information about registration, call 703-204-6795.

STARTING SCHOOL

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Assessment

If a language other than, or in addition to English, is spoken in the home, the student's English skills (in reading, writing, listening, and speaking) is assessed at the time of enrollment. The results of this assessment determine the student's level of English language proficiency and eligibility for ESOL services. This information is used to guide instruction and provide English learners with meaningful access to the grade level curriculum.

For more information, contact the ESOL Assessment Center at 703-204-4375, or go to www.fcps.edu and search for Registration.

Family and School Partnerships

Family and School Partnerships promotes student success in school and in life through:

- Parenting classes, FCPS orientations, in-school parent liaisons, and other parenting resources for families available online and in print on topics such as Back to School Night, parent-teacher conferences, and homework help.
- Training, resources, and professional development workshops for FCPS staff members, community members, and visiting professionals.
- Bilingual community liaisons, who meet with parents—as part of the student registration process—to provide information about the school system and the individual school(s) the child(ren) will attend. Community liaisons also inform parents about and connect them with applicable resources available at the school(s) and in the community.

Early literacy classes for African heritage families and classes in Arabic, English, Korean, and Spanish for parents who understand the importance of building a strong foundation for learning in children before they enroll in Kindergarten.

For more information, call 703-204-4300 or go to www.fcps.edu and search for Family Engagement.

The FCPS Parent Resource Center

The FCPS Parent Resource Center (PRC) promotes parental awareness of the services provided by Fairfax County Public Schools for children with learning challenges, special needs, or disabilities and their families. The PRC encourages parent participation in the educational decision-making process and provides a year-long training program and information to foster positive parent-professional partnerships and student outcomes. The PRC also serves as a resource for educators and the community. The PRC staff provides information, consultation, and support on:

- FCPS special education and related services and community resources.
- A referral network to meet individual needs (educational, transitional, vocational, recreational, health, etc.).
- Rules, regulations, and procedures that affect families of children with special needs or disabilities.
- The complex issues of parenting a child with learning challenges, special needs, or disabilities.

- The PRC Lending Library of 5,000 books, DVDs, CDs, periodicals, and publications.
- Free workshops, classes, and conferences.
- Specific disabilities and other topics related to individuals with disabilities.

For more information, call 703-204-3941 or go to www.fcps.edu and search for Parent Resource Center.

Family and Early Childhood Education Program (FECEP, Head Start, Early Head Start)

The Family and Early Childhood Education program (FECEP, Head Start, Early Head Start) is a free child development program for pregnant women and children aged birth to five years, including children with disabilities or special needs, from income-eligible families. Parents and community professionals work with program staff members to provide comprehensive services that address children's educational, social, health, nutritional, and emotional needs. For more information about the program and how to apply for services, go to www.fcps.edu and search for FECEP.

Early Childhood Identification and Services (Child Find)

Fairfax County Public Schools Early Childhood Identification and Services is a resource for Fairfax County preschool children and their parents, providing services to help identify potential special education needs and educating the community about child development and the importance of early intervention. The Early Childhood Assessment teams provide free developmental screenings to children aged 20 months to 5 years who are Fairfax County or Fairfax City residents. The teams assess developmental skills in the areas of speech, language, fine and gross motor, social-emotional, vision, and hearing. A child whose screening reflects possible delays in these areas may be referred for additional comprehensive evaluations and consideration for special education services. For further information, contact the Office of Special Education Instruction, PreK-12 at 571-423-4121.



WHAT EVERY FAMILY NEEDS TO KNOW

Attendance

Present, Absent, or Tardy?

FCPS believes, and research has shown, that students who regularly attend school have the most academic success. Parents and school staff members can work together to encourage students to participate fully in the school program—by being present; arriving on time; and being connected, committed, and engaged in the learning process.

A student's lack of attendance can affect academic, social, and emotional growth. Grading is based on work performance and class participation, and classwork can still be used to determine grades. It is difficult to "make up" missed work and classroom activities. To achieve academic success, students must be present, actively learning, and developing critical skills.

FCPS will excuse a student's tardiness or absence due to:

- Illness of the student (a physician's note may be required in cases of chronic or long-term illness).
- Death in the family.
- Medical appointment.
- Observance of a religious holiday.

Absence or tardiness for the following reasons will be unexcused:

- Family trip.
- Child care problem.
- Oversleeping.
- Nonschool-related activity.
- Traffic.
- Missed bus.

FCPS encourages family trips during scheduled school vacations and strongly discourages such trips during the school year because these extended absences interrupt the continuity of learning. FCPS must withdraw any student from its enrollment who is absent from school for 15 consecutive days or more. Upon the student's return, a parent must again officially enroll him or her.

If your child is going to be either absent for the entire day or late for any reason, call your school's attendance line, which is available 24-7 for messages. If your elementary school child is not present when attendance is checked in the morning, FCPS' automated attendance calling system will phone and e-mail parents that morning. Attendance is checked at 9:30 a.m. for secondary school students, and the automated system will phone and e-mail parents between 10 and 10:15 a.m. if your child was marked absent. Secondary school parents may receive an additional phone call if your child is reported absent for additional class periods or all of the school day.

For more information about school attendance and engagement, visit www.fcps.edu and search for Attendance Policies.

Transportation

Students arrive at school by bus, by walking, or by private car (Kiss and Ride and student drivers).

Bus

The school system owns and operates one of the nation's largest school bus fleets, consisting of more than 1,600 buses that transport over 130,000 students to and from school each day. Bus service is provided for children who attend elementary school and live more than one mile from school, for secondary school children who live more than one and a half miles from school, and for children of any age in cases where walking is hazardous. Schedules for bus riders are mailed to each student or are available to parents at each school prior to the opening of school.

All kindergarten students who are eligible for transportation are transported by bus from and to regular established morning and afternoon stops. Those kindergarten students who are not eligible for bus transportation will walk in the morning and afternoon. All kindergarten students riding afternoon school buses are to be met at the bus door and asked for by name by a:

- Parent,
- Guardian, or
- Student in middle school or higher.

If the kindergarten student is not met, the driver is to ask that the FCPS transportation office notify the school of the student's return and provide an estimated return time.

Bus riders should follow these guidelines:

- Refrain from crossing or playing on private property.
- Cooperate with the safety patrols and obey the bus drivers.
- Arrive at the bus stop five to ten minutes before the scheduled pickup time.
- Remain seated and talk quietly after boarding the bus.

For answers to questions regarding specific student transportation situations, call the appropriate transportation section:

- Local school.
- Lorton Center (main office), 703-446-2000.
- After-hours emergency number, 571-423-2000.

Walking

Younger walkers are encouraged to travel to and from school with older children from their neighborhoods. The PTA student directory available in the school office is a resource should parents need to contact neighborhood families. At some schools, crossing guards help walkers at intersections near the school. Parents may also meet their children at the school at dismissal time to walk home with them.

Walking students are encouraged to use designated paths or sidewalks where safety patrols are stationed.

WHAT EVERY FAMILY NEEDS TO KNOW

Car

Each FCPS school has a designated Kiss and Ride area that is used by parents who drop off and/or pick up their children. Kiss and Ride procedures are provided to enrolling families at the start of each school year. For safety reasons, parents are asked not to discharge students anywhere else on the school property.

Virginia state law forbids the passing of a school bus that is loading or unloading children; this law applies on school grounds, too. If you are picking up your child from the school office, please park in a visitor space rather than leave your car unattended along the yellow curb in front of the school. This area must remain free for fire and emergency vehicles.

Student Parking at Schools

High school students may purchase parking permits at their schools. Contact the school directly for more information. Rates are set by the School Board. Age or other restrictions may apply. Students who choose to park at schools or on city or county streets do so at their own risk.

More Information

The FCPS Office of Transportation Services offers resources and safety information for students traveling to and from school on its website. For more information, go to www.fcps.edu, and search for Transportation Services.

Before- and After-School Care—School Age Child Care (SACC)

School Age Child Care (SACC) is a program, of the Fairfax County Office for Children, for children attending elementary school. The program accommodates families in which all adults in the home are either working, attending school, or disabled. It provides professional care for children attending kindergarten through sixth grade and is offered at most elementary schools. Fees are based on gross household income. (Please Note: This program is run by the Fairfax County government, **NOT** Fairfax County Public Schools.)

SACC operates school-year, summer, winter, and spring programs. During the school year, children may enroll in separate sessions:

- Before school.
- After school.
- Summer and winter and spring holiday sessions are offered at consolidated sites.

Call the Office for Children at 703-449-8989 to receive information or to enroll. Information is also available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc/sacc.htm.

Recreation and Park Authority

The Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) schedules athletic programs in schools and on school grounds after school hours and on weekends throughout the year and summer. For more information, call 703-324-5533 or visit their website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/athletics.

The Fairfax County Park Authority conducts classes throughout the year and camps in the summer in schools.

Summer Rec-Pac is also offered in schools by the Park Authority. For more information, call 703-222-4664 or visit their website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

Food and Nutrition Services

A variety of nutritious breakfast, lunch, super snack meals, and à la carte offerings are served by 1,300 food service employees to about 145,000 school customers each day. School meals are planned by registered dietitian nutritionists and chefs to reflect the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and student preferences. Evidenced-based federal nutrition guidelines developed by the Institute of Medicine limit saturated fats and trans fats, while promoting fruits, vegetables, and whole grain products. À la carte items also reflect the Institute of Medicine recommendations. Food and Nutrition Services menus are posted on the FCPS website and are available via Nutrislice, providing a quick access to menu options and nutrition information. Students with special dietary needs, such as allergies, require a statement from a medical authority.

Student Account Balances

Students will have the same student cafeteria personal identification numbers (PINs) when they return to school each year. For students who will be going to a different school in the fall, the cafeteria PIN number and account balance will automatically move to the new school with them.

Meal Purchases

Parents may purchase breakfast and lunch for their children by the month, week, or day. Parents may specify how payments are to be used by their children—meals only or meals and à la carte. A printed summary of a child's account is available from the food service manager by signing on with **MySchoolBucks.com**. You do not need to use this account for this service.

- **Online**—Using www.MySchoolBucks.com.
- **Check**—Make checks payable to (School Name) Food Services and bring the check to the food service manager's office.
- **Cash**—Cash may be brought to the food service manager's office for deposit on a student's account, or a student may pay cash on a daily basis.

Free and Reduced-Price Meals

Free and reduced-price meals are available, to students unable to pay the full price of menus, according to criteria based on household size and income. Applications are mailed to all households in August. Applications translated into Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Farsi, Urdu, and Arabic are available by going to www.fcps.edu and searching for Free and Reduced-Price Meals Application. Students qualifying for reduced-price breakfast and lunch will receive these meals free; they are subsidized by the food and nutrition services account.

WHAT EVERY FAMILY NEEDS TO KNOW

Health

Health Information

School Health services are provided in FCPS, by Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) School Health Aides (SHA) and Public Health Nurses (PHN), under a memorandum of agreement. The Public Health Nurse is a licensed registered nurse with knowledge and skills in Public Health and School Health. The School Health Aide is a para professional trained by the PHN to provide basic care to sick and injured students and administer medications.

Annual Health Screening

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) required vision and hearing screenings of all kindergartners, third graders, seventh graders, tenth graders, and newly enrolled Fairfax County students are conducted each fall by the public health nurse, and the school health aide. This is only a brief screening; parents should continually be alert to identify vision or hearing difficulties that indicate need for examination by a specialist. Referrals will be made and resources for income-based assistance are available from the PHN.

Health Services

Health services in the school, including the administration of medication and basic care to sick and injured students, are performed by the school health aide and trained office staff members. According to state regulations, the health room staff may provide care only for minor illnesses and injuries, following specific guidelines. If the student's condition requires more attention, the parent will be contacted.

Medication at School

Students may take medication at school, under strict adult supervision and in accordance with School Board Regulation 2102. Forms authorizing the school to administer medication are available in the school office or online and must be completed prior to medications being brought to school and administered. With a parent or guardian's signature and a physician's signature, prescription medication may be stored in the health room and given as directed throughout the school year. With a parent or guardian's signature only, over-the-counter pain relievers for muscle aches, headaches, orthodontic pain, and menstrual cramps may be stored in the health room and administered at school. Any other over-the-counter medications may be given for up to ten consecutive school days with the parent or guardian's signature. Beyond ten days, a physician's signature is required.

Medication Guidelines

- Parents and guardians must transport medications to and from the school health room. With parent or guardian approval, a high school student may carry an over-the-counter medication from home directly to the school health room. All medication must be in the original container or prescription bottle.
- Your child must have the first dose of any new medication at home.

- A parent or guardian must personally collect any unused portion of the medication. Medications not claimed will be destroyed when the order expires or at the end of each school year.
- A parent or guardian is responsible for submitting a new form to the school any time the dosage is changed or the time at which the medication is to be taken is changed. The medication label must match the authorization form.

Health Action Plans

Parents or guardians enrolling a student with a health condition, health-related need, or specific health care procedure that affects the school day should contact the principal or school public health nurse so that a plan to support the student in the school setting can be developed.

When to Stay Home

Students with symptoms such as rashes, watery and inflamed eyes, fever greater than 100 F or 37.8 C, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea should remain at home until symptoms resolve or a health care provider evaluates their symptoms and determines whether or not they are contagious. The Fairfax County Health Department recommends that children stay home fever-free for 24 hours after an illness prior to returning to school.

To limit the spread of illnesses, notify the school office if your child gets strep throat, chicken pox, or other contagious illnesses.

Also notify the school if your child has been treated for head lice. The school will provide guidance regarding the appropriate documentation for your child to return to class.

Taking Your Child Home

Our school health rooms work to control and manage student exposure to contagious diseases and will call you if your child exhibits symptoms of illness or any fever greater than 100.4 F or 38 C.

We ask that you make arrangements to pick up your child as soon as possible after receiving such a call. It is important to have all emergency numbers up-to-date in case we need to contact you. Anyone picking up your child must show identification.

Returning to School

Some rashes, pink eye, impetigo, ringworm, and scabies can be passed from one student to another. To protect all FCPS students, the school system requires a note from a physician for any child with symptoms of these illnesses. The note must state that the child is not contagious before he or she can return to school.

Allergies at School

To provide a safe, educational environment for a student with allergies, schools, parents and guardians, physicians, and the student must work together. The school public health nurse will work with the family and the physician to develop a school health action plan for the student. Parents or guardians enrolling a student with allergies should contact the school principal as early as possible so that a safe plan can be instituted. For students with known allergies who have

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physician-ordered epinephrine, the parent or guardian must provide the student specific medication to the school. More information on the school health program can be found by going to www.fcps.edu and searching for School Health Services.

Fairfax County Health Department

The goal of the Fairfax County Health Department is to protect public health and the environment in which we live. Services include:

- Immunizations against diseases such as hepatitis B, varicella, measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, polio, diphtheria, and pertussis.
- Case management for high-risk children and families.
- Services for children with specific health care needs (neurology, cystic fibrosis, eye surgery, orthopedic).
- Primary health care for low-income, uninsured county residents (pediatric care).
- Dental services for children.
- Vision screenings and examinations.
- Referrals for other services within the county.

For more information, visit the Health Department website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd or call 703-246-2411 (TDY 703-591-6435).

Safe Schools Are Important in FCPS

FCPS operates a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week security force. Security personnel:

- Provide daytime security patrol of elementary and middle schools and nighttime patrol of all FCPS buildings.
- Work closely with the Fairfax County police and conduct building security inspections and assessments.
- Serve as the central communications center after normal business hours and can be reached at 571-423-2000.
- Help principals develop and evaluate critical incident and security plans.

FCPS is committed to doing all that it can reasonably do to limit harm to students, staff members, visitors, and school system buildings. Parents are encouraged to visit the Emergency Preparedness and Support page by going to www.fcps.edu and searching for Emergency Preparedness.

It is important to know emergency response terminology. Below are descriptions of the emergency response terms used by FCPS. Parents are encouraged to retain this list for future reference.

- **Secure the Building**—Secure the building is used if the threat is outside the building (example, a robbery near the school). Outside activities are canceled; all exterior doors are secured while staff members and students are free to move about inside their building.
- **Shelter in Place**—Shelter-in-place procedures are used to temporarily separate people from a hazardous outdoor atmosphere, such as in a hazmat incident.

The building is secured (as described above), and measures are taken to shut down the intake of outside air. No one is allowed to enter the school until public safety officials give the “all clear.”

- **Lockdown**—Lockdown is used to describe enhanced security measures taken to protect against potentially violent intruders who have entered the school.
- **Stay Put, Stay Tuned**—Stay put, stay tuned is implemented at the request of public safety officials to limit the impact of an event on the transportation infrastructure. This response may be appropriate during large-scale events that require limitations on movement and transportation. Normal end-of-day release will not occur until authorized by public safety officials. Parents are allowed to “check out” their students from school when this is implemented.

The Security Section of the Office of Safety and Security continues to work with schools to maintain and promote safe and secure learning environments. Employees in OSS work closely with local, state, and federal public safety officials concerning safety and security issues.

Questions, comments, and suggestions are always welcome. Contact the Office of Safety and Security at 571-423-2010.





PARENT ADVOCACY

You Are Your Child's Best Advocate

Family involvement plays a critical role in preparing students to succeed in school and in life. Fairfax County Public Schools encourages all parents to be advocates for their children by providing them with a safe, nurturing home environment; building strong, positive relationships with school staff members; and staying engaged in their children's learning and development. From preschool through high school, your child depends on you to be an involved, strong, and constant advocate. You play a key role at every stage of your child's development by:

- Sharing information with your child's teacher about his or her strengths, interests, and goals.
- Monitoring the development of your child's English and second language literacy.
- Identifying resources to help your child develop mathematic competencies to take advantage of rigorous academic courses in middle and high school.
- Staying involved and engaged both at home and at school to make sure your child comes to school and enrolls in the necessary classes to meet his or her postsecondary goals.



How to Be an Advocate

The road to college, post high school training, and a career starts before kindergarten. To help your child succeed at all levels, it is important to begin planning early. It has been shown that:

- Quality preschool and daycare programs increase a child's school success in later grades.
- Participation in challenging academic, enrichment, and support programs improves a child's academic achievement and chances for college admission.
- Active parent involvement during all phases of a student's education leads to greater success in all aspects of his or her life.

Students with parents or guardians who are involved in their education—both at home and at school—earn higher grades, have fewer disciplinary problems, and enjoy better social

adjustment. To help your child make sure he or she gets the most value from FCPS programs and resources:

Attend events—Back-to-School Nights, orientations, student performances, family programs, and parent workshops.

Support and participate in your child's school—join parent organizations, mentor, volunteer, and serve on committees.

Communicate with your child's school—regular check-ins with your child's teacher, parent-teacher conferences, parent liaisons, community liaisons, newsletters, and home visits.

Advocating for Your Child From the Beginning

Children are capable of amazing intellectual development during the first years of their life. Mainly, they learn by watching what their parents or guardians and siblings do. Almost anything your family does together is a learning opportunity for your child. Read a book, in any language to encourage an interest in reading, especially when you ask your child questions about the story. Discuss normal activities, such as a trip to the store, to increase his or her language skills.

Advocating at home:

- Build awareness:
 - ◆ Create an interesting and stimulating environment.
 - ◆ Introduce your child to new objects, people, and events.
 - ◆ Respond to your child's interests and share experiences.
 - ◆ Show interest and enthusiasm when talking with your child.
- Encourage exploration:
 - ◆ Encourage your child to explore different things.
 - ◆ Extend play into a learning opportunity.
 - ◆ Describe your child's activities as he or she does them.
 - ◆ Use open-ended questions, such as, "What else could you do?"
- Ask and answer questions:
 - ◆ Help your child think through questions and develop possible answers.
 - ◆ Give your child information when asked.
 - ◆ Help your child connect ideas.
 - ◆ Allow time for your child to ask or answer a series of questions.

Advocating for Your Child in Elementary School

Parents and guardians have both responsibilities and rights. Their first responsibility is to develop a partnership with their children's teachers and schools and participate in decisions about their children's education. They are also responsible for making sure their children attend school and follow school and school system rules and policies.

School personnel are responsible for protecting children's health and safety, and ensuring that they are treated fairly and not subject to discrimination. It is important for parents and guardians to share information about their children and discuss their expectations and goals.

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How to be an advocate for your elementary school age child:

- Make sure your child gets enough sleep at night (10-11 hours per night are recommended for elementary school-age children) and starts the day with a healthful breakfast. Children learn better when they are well-rested and well-fed.
- Read and review information that comes home from the school—welcome letters, information packets, school calendars, newsletters, and handbooks.
- Set clear rules for behavior at school and at home.
- Limit television viewing and monitor what your child is exposed to through the use of electronic media (such as cell phones, the Internet, and video games).
- Attend Back-to-School Night and Curriculum Night to find out what your child's teachers expect from you and your child and to learn about the curriculum.
- Set high expectations for your child to graduate from high school and continue his or her education by setting realistic goals and establishing plans to achieve them.
- Monitor your child's progress and regularly check his or her agenda for homework and class assignments.
- Learn how to access FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) for homework, class assignments, calendars, and school activities. Go to <http://fcps.blackboard.com>.
- Ask teachers about their expectations and develop a joint plan of action. It is important to share information about your child and work with the teacher as a team.
- Contact the school counselor to learn about academic programs, support programs, and information about the transition to middle school.
- Request interpreters if needed for scheduled meetings and other communications. Many school documents are available in English and other languages.
- Visit the school's parent center. Many schools have a special room for parents to meet, plan school activities, and work on classroom projects, or just share conversation, discuss school information, and become involved in the school.
- Make contact with your school's parent liaison. Parent liaisons can coordinate parent involvement activities and provide parent education.
- Get to know the key people in your child's school who can provide additional support and resources for you, your child, and your family when issues or concerns arise:

- ◆ **Principal and assistant principal**—are responsible for overall school management and instruction.
- ◆ **Classroom teacher**—is responsible for day-to-day instruction and is the first person to contact if you have issues or concerns.
- ◆ **Office support staff members**—can help you get the information you need, including: registration, bus schedules, school lunches, immunizations, or attendance. The best time to reach them is in the middle of the day; they are busiest at the beginning and end of the day.
- ◆ **Reading teacher**—works with classroom teachers and students to improve reading skills.

- ◆ **School counselor**—provides academic, social, emotional, and career support. Counselors deliver classroom lessons and meet with students individually and in small groups. The school counselor also conducts programming for parents and community.
- ◆ **Instructional assistants**—help teachers and students with daily instructional activities.
- ◆ **Clinic room aide**—takes care of children when they become sick during the school day and provides medication to children at the direction of their parents and doctors.
- ◆ **School psychologist**—provides diagnostic, evaluative, and support services to help children's learning and their social and emotional development and adjustment.
- ◆ **Social worker**—helps families through short-term counseling and can provide referrals to community agencies.

Advocating for Your Child in Middle School

Middle school can be initially overwhelming for some students and their parents. Friends have more influence, and boys and girls are noticing each other. To be most effective, parents need to stay engaged with their children and be aware of their friends and activities at school and in the community. Students choose middle school courses in the spring before grades 7 and 8 (and before grade 6 for some middle schools).



How to be an advocate for your middle school-age child:

- Attend Back-to-School Night and Curriculum Night to find out what your child's teachers expect from you and your child and to learn about the curriculum.
- Make sure your child is developing strong study skills by checking homework and his or her agenda to see if it is complete. If your child does not have homework, encourage him or her to write "no homework" in his or her agenda and to read for thirty minutes. You can use the FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) website to check assignments and send e-mails to teachers.
- Monitor your child's report card. If your child is not doing well academically, meet with your child's teacher and/

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or school counselor to create a plan for improvement. In addition you can attend the Touching Bases program in the fall and spring to meet with your child's teachers to discuss your child's academic progress.

- Support your child's interest in participating in extracurricular activities.
- Help your child select appropriate courses for the next school year and consult with your child's school counselor for additional information.
- View and support your child's Student Learning Plan through the Family Connection website. Refer to page two for information on establishing your FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) account.
- Discuss matters regarding high school transition including course selection, career goals, graduation requirements, and postsecondary options.
- Join and participate in parent groups, such as the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

Advocating for Your Child in High School

Parents are often unsure how to be involved in their sons' or daughters' high school experience. Most parents are comfortable participating in their child's sports and extracurricular activities, but your teenage son or daughter may discourage you from closely monitoring his or her social activities and academic progress. However, as teens struggle for independence, they still need their parents to provide guidance and structure as they test their limits of maturity and decision-making.

How to be an advocate for your high school-age child:

- Attend Back-to-School Night to learn what your child will study during the school year and find out the overall curriculum plans and goals for each class.
- Help your child develop good study habits by checking to see that homework assignments and special projects are completed on time. Parents can use FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) to see their child's homework and classroom assignments, view class calendars, and find out when important tests are scheduled.
- Monitor your child's use of social media and video games, and help your child make good decisions about what he or she chooses for entertainment.
- Become involved in school and parent organizations.
- Take part in classroom activities by serving as a tutor or mentor, attending field trips, providing materials for special projects, helping with special events and programs, and calling other parents.
- Help your child set realistic goals and establish plans to achieve them.
- Become knowledgeable about which classes or programs are available to your child by attending Curriculum Night and reviewing materials that your child's school sends to you.



- Help your child select appropriate classes for the next school year and consult with your child's school counselor for additional information.
- Schedule an appointment with your child's school counselor and career center specialist to discuss the transition beyond high school and learn more about careers, goal setting, and postsecondary opportunities, including college admissions and financial aid tools.
- View your child's exploration of postsecondary career and educational opportunities through the Family Connection website. Features include career and college exploration, scholarships, and more. Refer to page two for information on establishing your FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) account.
- Help your child develop a resumé and gather personal references.
- Review your child's records, tests, and career plans and make arrangements for your child to take necessary tests: PSAT, SAT, SAT Subject, ACT, etc. Consult with your child's counselor and career center specialist for more information about these testing programs.
- Help your child apply for jobs, college, or further training. Encourage your child to acquire part-time volunteer or job experiences to expand his or her skills and experiences.
- Attend career information programs, college fairs, or college night programs.

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- If applying for financial aid, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1 of your child's senior year. FAFSA is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- When researching colleges, think about what academic and social support the college provides students throughout the college experience.
- Encourage your child to visit the college and career planning tool, Family Connections, to explore career options and resources including college, career and technical schools, military, or employment after high school. Additional information about college and careers is available at: www.fcps.edu and searching for College and Career Planning.

Adapted From: Advocacy Handbook for Parents. Fairfax County Public Schools, 2007. Produced by the Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee (MSAOC).

For additional information on parent involvement and school success, go to www.fcps.edu and search for Resources.

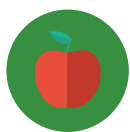
Resources to Help Parents and Students

- **Library catalog**—For students and parents at <http://libcat.fcps.edu>.
- **Parent resources**—Information about before- and after-school resources, bullying prevention, diploma requirements, Internet safety, testing information, tutors, and much more is available by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Parents.
- **Parenting classes**—Taught by professionals in English, Korean, and Spanish for family members and caregivers of infants through teens on issues related to discipline, communication, conflict resolution, family involvement, and school success. Classes are single and multisession, two to

four hours long, and held throughout the year during the day, in the evening, and on some weekends. Fees and more information are available by going to www.fcps.edu and searching for Parenting Classes, or by calling 703-204-4343.

- **Parent information line**—For general FCPS information and help in communicating with your child's school. Call and leave a message; you should receive a return phone call within 24 hours. Amharic: 571-423-4957; Arabic: 571-423-4952; Chinese: 571-423-4953; Farsi: 571-423-4954; Korean: 571-423-4951; Spanish: 571-423-4950; Urdu: 571-423-4955; Vietnamese: 571-423-4956.
- **School Board advisory committees**—Review issues and advise the School Board; committees include Adult and Community Education, Advanced Academic Programs, Career and Technical Education, Facilities Planning Advisory Council (FPAC), Family and Early Childhood Education program (FECEP)-Head Start, Human Relations, Minority Student Achievement Oversight, School Health, Students with Disabilities, and Title I. For more information, go to www.fcps.edu and click on School Board.
- **Subscription resources**—Online database services for research, student homework help, and extended learning that can be found by going to www.fcps.edu and search for Resources.
- **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) Admissions website**—Provides a comprehensive overview of the admissions process for prospective students. For more information about TJHSST, go to www.tjadmissions.org.





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Field Trips

During the school year, classes may take field trips that relate directly to the regular instructional program. Schools send parental authorization forms home prior to the trip, and parents must return them to the school no later than the day before the scheduled trip. Schools cannot accept oral permission. All students must ride school arranged transportation to and from the field trip destination. For safety and insurance reasons, siblings may not accompany chaperoning parents on field trips.



Personal Property

FCPS does not assume responsibility for the personal property of students and does not purchase insurance for students' property. Each school urges parents and students to carefully consider the type and value of property taken to school, especially items with monetary or sentimental value. Unclaimed articles found in the school are placed in a designated location.

School Clothes

FCPS expects students to come to school dressed in proper attire for school activities. Tennis shoes or shoes designed to provide support, fit securely, and prevent injury are necessary for physical education classes and active recess play in the elementary schools. Clothing should fit, be neat and clean. Dress code details are available in the SR&R.

Bring Your Own Device

To support its 21st century learning environment and increased access to technology, FCPS encourages BYOD (Bring Your Own Device). With BYOD, students are able to access the FCPS wireless network with their personal devices (laptops, netbooks, tablets, smart phones, etc.) during the school day.

A self-registration process auto-directs devices to a secure, pre-determined network giving students access to FCPS resources on their personal devices. With classroom teacher approval, students may use their own devices to access the Internet and collaborate with other students during the school day. Student participation in BYOD is governed by the Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R) document. BYOD

permission is acknowledged by signing the parent or guardian signature sheet within the SR&R. For more information, go to www.fcps.edu and search for BYOD.

SIS StudentVue

Students in grades 7–12 are provided an electronic view of their personal school information including attendance, grades, gradebook, schedules, health information and more using this resource. Students use their FCPS network account to access SIS StudentVue.

Fees

Textbooks are provided free of charge to all students, as is access to computers. A complete list of fees is published annually in Notice 5922, which can be found by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Policies and Regulations.

Fees may be charged for items including:

- The behind-the-wheel phase of driver education.
- Towel service and gym clothes.
- Pre-school and kindergarten snacks.
- Musical instrument rentals and repair.
- Transcripts of student records.
- Enrichment materials.
- Optional extracurricular activities such as athletic events, plays, and field trips.
- Parking on high school campuses by student drivers.
- Classroom consumables.

Loss of or damage to School Board property may be charged at the actual cost to repair or replace the property.

Inquiries and Complaints

Parents with complaints or concerns are encouraged to try to resolve the issue informally at their school starting with the teacher. If a parent is not satisfied that a complaint has been resolved, the parent may request a meeting with the principal. The principal's decision on a complaint may be appealed to the region assistant superintendent following receipt of the principal's decision. The parent should state precisely the reasons for the dissatisfaction with the principal's decision and be limited to the matter



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under review. After receiving the complaint, the regional assistant superintendent shall promptly review the complaint, request a meeting of affected individuals if necessary, and inform the parent in writing of the decision.

Insurance

Optional student accident insurance is available through K & K Insurance at a low cost. Policies offered include school-time accident insurance, 24-hour accident insurance, and football accident insurance. K and K Insurance Group can be contacted by going to www.kandkinsurance.com/sites/K12Voluntary/Pages/Home.aspx.

Fairfax County offers several affordable child health care programs. Each program has its own requirements. Information is available by contacting the Fairfax County Department of Family Services at 703-324-7500 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/ss/freelowcost.htm.

Noncustodial Parents

A noncustodial parent has the same rights as a custodial parent to attend school conferences and events at the school (for example, lunches with children, classroom visits, school performances), to participate in the special education process, and to receive student records and information about the child. Upon request, a noncustodial parent will be listed on the child's emergency care card for notification and information purposes only.

More specific information about the rights of custodial, joint custodial, and noncustodial parents may be found in the current version of FCPS Regulation 2240.

Student Activities and Athletics

Fairfax County Public Schools offers opportunities at the secondary level for growth and enrichment through athletics, student government, performing groups, publications, honor

societies, and special interest groups. For further information, contact the student activities office at each high school or call 571-423-1260.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

FCPS has specific rules of conduct that are sent home each year in the *Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R): A Guide for Families*, and are reviewed in school with all students. Positive behavior approaches are used in each school to teach and reinforce expected behavior and to provide more intensive intervention when needed. Students are expected to follow the SR&R while on school property, while engaged in or attending a school-sponsored activity, or when going to or returning from school on a school bus, walking, or at the school bus stop. Students may also be disciplined for acts committed away from school property and outside school hours if the conduct is detrimental to the interest of the school, adversely affects school discipline, and/or results in a criminal charge or conviction.

To read the complete Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R) handbook, go to www.fcps.edu and search for Student Rights and Responsibilities.

The Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Student Safety and Wellness (SSAW) provides responses to questions concerning Student Rights and Responsibilities, attendance, and student safety and wellness to school staff members and parents. The office provides information and training for students, parents or guardians, and staff members about prevention program work in the following areas: alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD), violence prevention (gangs), bullying, cyberbullying, and Internet safety. SSAW also provides crisis response to school staff members when requested. For more information, call 571-423-4270 or go to www.fcps.edu and search for Student Safety and Wellness.





SUPPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

Ignite – FCPS Strategic Plan

Ignite, our Strategic Plan, and four goals define the role of all FCPS staff members in living the commitment to our staff, students, and community. The four goals are:

- Student success.
- Caring culture.
- Premier workforce.
- Resource stewardship.

To learn more, go to www.fcps.edu and search for Strategic Plan.

Portrait of a Graduate

The Portrait of a Graduate encompasses all that we want our students to be and is the center of the FCPS Strategic Plan. It provides the expectation that all students will graduate from FCPS as excellent communicators; collaborators; ethical and global citizens; creative and critical thinkers; and goal-directed and resilient individuals.

For more information, go to www.fcps.edu and search for Portrait of a Graduate.

Program of Studies

The required instructional program for FCPS is defined in the Program of Studies (POS), which contains:

- Curriculum content and essential knowledge and skills for each grade level and course.
- Approved instructional resources.
- Assessment activities.
- Alignment with the Virginia Standards of Learning.

The POS overview and other academic programs may be reviewed at any school or by going to www.fcps.edu and searching for Program of Studies.

Testing

At the elementary and middle school levels, Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) tests are administered in reading and mathematics to students in grades 3 through 8, in history-social science to students in grades 4 (Virginia Studies) and 8 (Civics and Economics), and in science to students in grades 5 and 8. The SOL writing test is given to students in grade 8. In high school, SOL tests are administered when students complete specific courses: English (2), mathematics (3), science (3), and history (3).

The Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test (VMAST) is available for certain students with disabilities. In the VMAST assessments, supports and simplifications have been applied to existing online reading and mathematics items to make them more accessible to students with disabilities. Since the summer of 2014, the VMAST is only available in Algebra I and end-of-course Reading for eligible students pursuing a Standard Diploma with credit accommodations; and the VMAST Grade 8 Reading and Mathematics tests are only available to high school students with disabilities who meet the VMAST participation criteria, entered high school prior to 2013-14, and are pursuing a Modified Standard diploma.

The Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP) is an alternative method of assessing students who by the nature of their disability are unable to participate in the Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments even with testing accommodations. The VSEP provides eligible students with the opportunity to earn the requisite verified credits for a standard or advanced studies diploma through non-traditional means. Teachers collect student data for these portfolio-type assessments throughout the year.

Starting with fall 2016, the Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA), which was developed as an alternative reading assessment for students in grades 3 - 8 identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP), will no longer be available.

The Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) is designed to evaluate the performance of students with significant cognitive disabilities who are working on academic standards that have been reduced in complexity and depth. This content is derived from the Standards of Learning (SOL) and is referred to as the Aligned Standards of Learning (ASOL). Students in grades 3-8 who are participating in the VAAP are required to submit evidence in the same subject areas as required of their non-disabled peers in the same grade level. High School students participating in the VAAP are required to submit evidence in reading, writing, mathematics, science, history/social sciences by the end of their completion of grade 11 or on a schedule identified by the local school division.

The World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State to State for English Language Learners (WIDA ACCESS for ELLs®) is administered annually to limited English proficient students in kindergarten through grade 12 to monitor their progress in acquiring academic English.

The Developmental Reading Assessment, 2nd Edition: Word Analysis (DRA WA) is administered to all kindergarten students. The Developmental Reading Assessment, 2nd edition (DRA2) is administered to all students in grades 1 and 2 and students in grade 3 who are new to Virginia's public schools. Mathematics Reasoning Assessments are administered to all students in grades K-2. Teachers use these assessments to plan for instruction.

The Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test®-Second Edition (NNAT2) and the Cognitive Abilities Test™ (CogAT®) are used as part of the screening process for advanced academic services. The NNAT is administered to students in grade 1 and the CogAT is administered to students in grade 2. Students in grades 3-8 who are missing an ability test score are also tested.

For more information, call the Office of Student Testing at 571-423-1400.

Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements are based on the year that a student enters the ninth grade for the first time and the diploma that the student chooses to pursue. Students may select to pursue a Standard Diploma or an Advanced Studies Diploma. Students must earn both standard credits and verified credits to be eligible to graduate.

A standard credit is awarded when a student successfully passes a high school level course. A verified unit of credit is based on satisfactory completion of a specific course and a passing score on the Virginia end-of-course Standards of

SUPPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

Learning test for that course. Students eligible to receive special education services may be eligible for additional diplomas options based on their individualized education program (IEP).

Additional information about graduation requirements can be found by going to www.fcps.edu and searching for Graduation, or by contacting the school counseling department or special education department in an FCPS high school.

Fairfax County Adult High School, the National External Diploma program, and the GED are offered through the Office of Intervention and Prevention, Department of Special Services. For information, call 703-503-6407.

Student Learning Plan

The Student Learning Plan process allows students to identify interests and strengths; set academic, career, and personal goals; develop plans of study; incorporate the Student Achievement Goals; and reflect on their learning. Every student will work with counselors, teachers, and his or her family to create an individual plan using the Family Connection website. Student Learning Plans begin in grade 7 and are updated and reviewed periodically through grade 12. School and family collaboration is essential to this student planning opportunity. Additional information and resources can be found by going to www.fcps.edu and searching for Student Learning Plan, or by calling 571-423-4639.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Fairfax County Public Schools offers many special programs for students. A list of these programs, along with a short description of each, follows. For more in-depth information on these programs, call the phone number given or visit the website provided (if listed).

Adult and Community Education

Adult and Community Education (ACE) offers an extensive array of educational opportunities for career and personal growth for individuals of all ages, conveniently located in local schools and community facilities. Visit www.fcps.edu and search for Adult and Community Education, or call 703-658-1201 for more information.

Advanced Academics

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Advanced Academic Programs provide challenging learning experiences that are designed to meet the unique learning profile of a broad range of advanced learners. Through a continuum of opportunities, students engage in complex subject matter, preparing them for more challenging and rigorous classes as they advance in grade level.

For further information about elementary school programs, call 571-423-4743. For information about middle school programs, call 571-423-4746. For information about high school programs, call 571-423-4752 or your child's school.

Advanced Placement (AP)

The Advanced Placement (AP) program provides rigorous academic instruction and college-level coursework in each subject area. AP courses are offered in English, world languages, social studies, mathematics, and science and in some of the fine and practical arts. AP courses are primarily designed for students in grades 11 and 12 and are open to all students who meet the prerequisites for the classes. A few AP courses are open to underclassmen as well. Students in AP courses are required to sit for the AP examination and receive an additional weight of 1.0 added to their overall grade point average. For more information: www.collegeboard.com.

The AP program is offered at Centreville, Chantilly, Fairfax, Falls Church, Herndon, Langley, Madison, McLean, Oakton, South County, West Potomac, West Springfield, Westfield, and Woodson High Schools, at TJHSST, and at Hayfield and Lake Braddock Secondary Schools. Other FCPS high schools may offer a small selection of AP courses to complement the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. For more information, go to www.fcps.edu, and search for Advanced Placement Courses and Exams.

Career and Technical Education

High schools offer courses in the following areas: business and information technology, family and consumer sciences, health and medical sciences, junior reserve officers training corps, marketing, technology and engineering education, and trade and industrial education. In addition, programs in business and information technology, family and consumer sciences, and technology and engineering education are offered in the middle schools.

Advanced technical and specialized elective courses are offered to all FCPS high school students through the academies located at Chantilly, Edison, Fairfax, Falls Church, Marshall, and West Potomac High Schools; school bus transportation may be provided. Governor's STEM Academies are located at Chantilly and Marshall High Schools and focus on engineering, robotics, and cybersecurity. Governor's Health Sciences Academies are located at Falls Church and West Potomac.

Other specialized programs for students with particular interests are available at community-based locations and include classroom-on-the-mall, licensed practical nursing and residential construction. For further information, call the Office of Career and Technical Education at 571-423-4526, or go to www.fcps.edu and search for Career and Technical Education.

Career and Transition Services

Career and Transition Services provides instruction and postsecondary planning support to students receiving special education services, parents, and teachers to comply with the transition requirements of IDEA. Services provided include employment and transition representatives (ETR) at each high school, resource teachers in each high school academy, job coaches for students participating in community work experiences, assistive technology support, and formal career assessments. Career-related instruction is provided through courses such as Education for Employment (EFE), Work Awareness and Transition (WAT), and Education for Employment for the Office as well as through programs for

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students aged 18-22 at the Pulley and Davis Career Centers, and the Secondary Transition to Employment Programs (STEP) based at Chantilly, South Lakes, and Mount Vernon High Schools. For more information, call 571-423-4150.

College Success Program

The College Success Program provides college readiness, access, and success services to students who have the potential and desire to attend college but face significant barriers. It serves students traditionally underrepresented on college and university campuses, such as first-generation college students, minority students, and students who require substantial financial support to attend. The College Success Program is comprised of four individual programs: Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), the College Partnership Program (CPP), the Early Identification Program (EIP), and Pathway to the Baccalaureate-Pathway Connection. Each program has its own philosophy and services that, together, include: monitoring of academic performance, tutoring, goal setting, career exploration, assistance with the college application process, assistance with scholarship applications, field trips to college and university campuses, SAT preparation, parent sessions and summer camps. For additional information, call 571-423-4420.

Early Childhood Identification and Services

Early childhood assessment teams offer comprehensive developmental assessments of preschool children between the ages of two and five years. Children who exhibit significant developmental delays can be considered for special education eligibility and if eligible special educational services will be provided. Early Childhood Identification and Services are administered by the Office of Special Education at 571-423-4121.

Elementary Schools for the Arts and Sciences

Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences. The academic program integrates the arts and technology with instruction to make learning a creative experience. Bailey's partners with the Kennedy Center in the Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA) program, providing the nation's finest program in arts integration staff development for its teachers. Students conduct research, produce live dramatic performances, compose original musical scores, design science experiments, and build museum exhibits. For more information, call 703-575-6836 or go to www.fcps.edu and search for Bailey's Elementary School.

Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences. The academic program integrates fine arts, science, and technology into the curriculum. The fine arts program, partnered with the George Mason Institute of the Arts, develops students' observation levels and creativity. Hunters Woods also partners with the Kennedy Center in the Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA) program, providing the nation's finest program in arts integration staff development for its teachers. The Science Discovery program provides support to the science curriculum and special projects. For more information, call 703-262-7497 or go to www.fcps.edu and search for Hunters Woods Elementary School.

Both schools serve children beyond their attendance areas and accept applications.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

ESOL services are provided in all schools to more than 35,000 students to provide English learners with the support they need to develop English proficiency and increase their academic achievement. ESOL services provide the academic foundation, English literacy, and additional supports English learners need to meet the same grade-level goals as their English proficient peers, including promotion, graduation, and becoming ready for college and careers. With specialized instruction and materials, ESOL teachers work collaboratively with other teachers to provide access to content coursework while simultaneously helping students progress in English.

For additional information, call 571-423-4650, or go to www.fcps.edu and search for ESOL. ESOL classes for adults are offered throughout the county. For locations and class schedules, call 703-658-2777.

Extended School Year (ESY) Services

ESY services are provided to students whose individualized education program (IEP) teams have determined that such services are required. All ESY services and transportation are provided free of charge as a part of the student's access to a free, appropriate public education (FAPE), in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004. Additional information can be found by going to www.fcps.edu and searching for Extended School Year Services.

Family and Early Childhood Education Program, Head Start, Early Head Start

Through the Family and Early Childhood Education program, Head Start, Early Head Start (FCEP, HS, EHS), parents, other volunteers, and community liaisons work with school staff members to provide comprehensive services that meet children's educational, health, nutritional, social, and emotional needs. The program serves more than 1,700 students, aged three through five years, in classrooms located in 65 schools. The program also provides comprehensive services to children from birth to three years of age and to expectant parents at three elementary schools in the Reston-Herndon and Springfield area. For eligibility criteria and additional information, go to www.fcps.edu and search for FCEP.

Family and School Partnerships

Family and School Partnerships' multicultural parent panels and workshops help school-based administrators and teachers understand the academic backgrounds of FCPS's increasingly diverse student population. Online and hard copy publications produced by Family and School Partnerships in multiple languages provide information on Back to School Night, parent-teacher conferences, homework help, and other topics that are critical to student achievement.

For more information, call 703-204-4300.

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Fine Arts

The FCPS Fine Arts program provides a comprehensive, sequential and cumulative arts education for students in kindergarten through grade 12. Elementary art and general music instruction are provided to all students in kindergarten through sixth grade. In addition at the elementary level, band instruction is offered to students in grades 5 and 6, and orchestra instruction is offered to students in grades 4 through 6. At the middle and high school levels, a wide range of elective course offerings in dance, music, theater, and visual arts are available for students. For more information, call 571-423-4530, or go to www.fcps.edu and search for Fine Arts.

High School Academies

Six high school academies offer advanced technical and specialized elective courses for students interested in pursuing studies in Career and Technical Education, Fine Arts and World Languages. In the academy elective course offerings, students receive both career and academic preparation. The six academies are located at Chantilly, Edison, Fairfax, Falls Church, Marshall, and West Potomac High Schools. For further information, call the Career and Technical Education Program at 571-423-4526, or go to www.fcps.edu and search for Career and Technical Education.

High School for Science and Technology

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology offers a comprehensive college preparatory program emphasizing science, mathematics, and technology. For more information, call 571-423-3770, or go to www.tjadmissions.org.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB)

The International Baccalaureate program (IB) provides a comprehensive rigorous education with an international perspective. A student may earn the IB diploma by successfully completing IB courses and their assessment in six areas—English, world languages, social studies, science, mathematics, and an elective. IB diploma students are required to engage in community service and other extracurricular activities (creativity, action, and service), individual research (extended essay), and a Theory of Knowledge class. The IB program is a two-year program for those in 11th and 12th grade and is open to all students. Students may also choose to pursue individual IB courses. Students in IB courses are required to complete the IB examinations, which receive both internal and external assessments. Students receive an additional weight of 1.0 added to their overall grade point average. For more information about the IB program, see www.ibo.org.

The IB diploma program is offered at Annandale, Edison, Lee, Marshall, Mount Vernon, South Lakes, and Stuart High Schools and at Robinson Secondary School. Some of these schools may offer a small selection of AP courses to complement the IB program. A list of IB courses at each Fairfax County high school is available by going to www.fcps.edu and searching for Advanced Academic Programs. For more information, contact the school or the advanced academic programs office at 571-423-4740.

International Baccalaureate Career-related Program (IBCP)

The International Baccalaureate (IB) has developed a framework of international education that incorporates the vision and educational principles of the IB into local programs that address the needs of students engaged in career-related education. The IB Career-related Program (IBCP) is an academic qualification designed to support schools and colleges that offer career-related courses to their students.

The IBCP is being offered at Annandale, Lee, Mount Vernon, South Lakes, and Stuart High Schools. For more information, contact the school or the advanced academic programs office at 571-423-4740.

International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBMYP)

The IB Middle Years Program (IBMYP) provides rigorous academic experiences for all students beginning in middle school (sixth or seventh grade) through high school and ending in tenth grade with the capstone project of the IBMYP experience, the personal project. The IBMYP is comprised of three educational components: curriculum and assessment, service as action and intercultural awareness. The IBMYP supports critical thinking and student reflection with an emphasis on learning for 21st century skills and readiness. Four IBMYP partnerships have been authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization to offer the IBMYP:

- Whitman Middle and Mount Vernon High
- Hughes Middle and South Lakes High
- Glasgow Middle and Stuart High
- Holmes Middle, Poe Middle, and Annandale High School

Three additional partnerships are candidates for authorization: Key Middle and Lee High; Twain Middle and Edison High; and Robinson Secondary (middle and high school).

For further information, contact a participating school or the instructional services office at 571-423-4740.

International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (IBPYP)

The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (IBPYP) provides a framework that supports inquiry-based teaching and learning. Through the IBPYP, students learn conceptual understandings that they can apply to different situations and subject areas. The IBPYP places an emphasis on the development of essential skills that support the FCPS Portrait of a Graduate while developing key attitudes and learner profile attributes. Belvedere Elementary School is an authorized IBPYP that complements the IB continuum in the Stuart pyramid. For more information, contact the school or the advanced academic programs office at 571-423-4740.

Language Through Content

The Language through Content (LTC) program, formerly Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (FLES) program, is an approach to language learning that allows students

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to develop basic communicative skills in a language while reinforcing and enriching concepts from the general Program of Studies. The LTC program places an emphasis on science concepts and include science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) skills. STEAM is based on student driven inquiry and problem solving investigations. Combining such skills with language learning will provide a unique way for students to acquire a target language while preparing them with the 21st century skills needed to become successful global citizens.

The LTC model provides all students in an elementary school with language learning opportunities. Generally, programs provide 60 minutes of language instruction per week. Students who participate in an LTC program will have the opportunity to continue learning the language learned at the elementary level or another world language at the middle school and high school levels. For more information call 571-423-4602, or go to www.fcps.edu and search for Elementary World Languages Programs.

Library Information Services

Library Information Services (LIS) supports all aspects of the school library programs and provides for the information needs of the entire FCPS community. This combined preK-12 program acquires materials for all school library collections, administrative offices, and FCPS special library collections. LIS provides access to a wide variety of online subscription databases and digital book collections that can be accessed from school and at home. These resources support all areas of the curriculum, and librarians teach students and teachers how to use these products.

MentorWorks

MentorWorks supports school-based mentoring programs in Fairfax County Public Schools. Founded in 1999, its mission is to connect every student in the school system with a caring and responsible adult in a mentoring relationship. Many elementary, middle, and high schools have successfully

implemented mentoring programs using a variety of models including traditional one-to-one relationships and group, team, and peer mentoring. The MentorWorks program is focused on helping students develop their strengths and capabilities and strives to help students reach their full potential. For further information, call 571-423-4403 or go to www.fcps.edu and search for Mentors.

Middle School After-School Programs

All FCPS middle schools offer comprehensive, high-quality after-school programs five days a week. Particular program offerings vary by school, but all offer activities that address four key strategies: academic support and enrichment; social skills and youth development; physical fitness, health, and recreation; and family and community involvement. For more information, or go to www.fcps.edu and search for Middle School After-School Programs.

Nontraditional School Programs

Nontraditional School Programs offer credit courses leading to a high school diploma and are designed for students in grades k-adult who may benefit from a nontraditional learning environment. Nontraditional School Programs seek to develop and build strong relationships with students and families by focusing on student strengths and commitment to moving towards academic success. These school programs are designed to help students whose life circumstances could result, or have resulted in, an interruption of their education. Nontraditional School Programs also offer GED preparation programs for youth 16-18 years old and adults. Additionally, Nontraditional School Programs provide teachers to specialized settings sponsored by county agencies such as the courts, mental health, and alcohol and drug services. For additional information, speak with your child's school counselor or call 571-423-4202.



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Online Campus

The FCPS Online Campus is a web-based high school course delivery program. FCPS Online Campus delivers courses identical in content to those offered in traditional classrooms and uses multimedia to teach students. For more information, talk to your school counselor or go to www.fcps.edu and search for Online Campus.

Partnerships

Business and community organizations are encouraged to form partnerships with the school system. The FCPS Ignite Partnership program identifies ways to partner with the school system. These include:

- Mentoring.
- Tutoring.
- Needs-based donations.
- Essential workforce development.
- Arts.
- STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics).
- Get2Green (environmental).

For more information, call 571-423-1209.

Psychology Services

Psychologists are child development and mental health specialists who work with students, parents, and school staff members to maximize every student's capacity for academic and social success. A psychologist is assigned to every school. Additional information is available by calling the Office of Psychology Services at 571-423-4250.

School Counseling Services

School counselors use both the national standards and Virginia Department of Education Standards for School Counseling to provide classroom lessons, small counseling groups, and individual planning, counseling, and responsive services for students. The school counseling program addresses the academic, social and emotional, and college and career needs of all students and prepares them to become lifelong learners and productive members of a global society.

School counselors collaborate with families, school staff, and other community members to provide a comprehensive and developmentally age-appropriate program. Additionally, school counselors provide preventative programming including parent education, consultations, and referrals to school and community resources as needed.

Each FCPS high school provides a career center dedicated to student discovery and planning for postsecondary educational opportunities and career choices.

For further information, contact your child's school or School Counseling Services at 571-423-4420, or go to www.fcps.edu and search for School Counseling Services.

Social Work Services

School social workers are assigned to every school and center. They provide counseling and other services to students, parents, and school staff members. Social workers serve as a link between school, home, and the community. For further information, call the Office of Social Work and Support Services at 571-423-4300.

Special Education, PreK–12

The Office of Special Education Instruction directs and supports the development, implementation, operation, and evaluation of preK-12 educational programs, curricula, and services to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities. Child Find services are provided to families to help identify students requiring special education services and support. In addition to serving students at the early childhood and elementary school levels, services are also provided to students with disabilities at the secondary school level, supporting their transition from high school to postsecondary education and employment.

Related and additional services and supports that may be required by special education students to successfully access and participate in educational experiences include:

- Adapted physical education.
- Assistive technology services.
- Deaf and hard-of-hearing services.
- Occupational and physical therapy service
- Speech and language services.
- Vision impaired services.

For more information regarding go to www.fcps.edu and search for Special Education, or call 571-423-4105.

Special Education PreK–12 Adapted Curriculum

The PreK-12 Adapted Curriculum program provides direct and indirect support to schools in the instruction of students with low-incidence disabilities of autism, intellectual disabilities, severe intellectual disabilities, and physical disabilities. The PreK-12 Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program has a primary objective of supporting the special education instruction of students with autism and related disorders through the use of principles of Applied Behavior Analysis. In designated preschool, elementary, and secondary classrooms, ABA is used to modify behaviors and teach new skills. For more information, call 571-423-4110.

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Summer Learning Programs

The FCPS summer learning programs provide numerous academic and enrichment opportunities for students. The Credit Recovery Academy offers courses for which students can earn standard course credit for courses they have failed. Students make take one course during the summer. Included in the academy are remediation classes that prepare students to retake SOL tests.

The summer online campus program gives high school students the opportunity to accelerate their academic program or earn credit recovery. Middle and high school English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) students may improve their skills through a summer ESOL course. Students may also find challenging science, technology, engineering, and mathematics summer programs at various camps.

Information about summer programs will be published in the *FCPS This Week* newsletter and at www.fcps.edu when details are available. Information about ACE is also available at 703-658-1201; IFTA at 571-423-4543; Tech Adventure Camp at 571-423-4502; STEM Camp at 571-423-4593; Fashion Camp at 571-423-4599; and Academic and ESOL programs at 571-423-4679.

Title I

Title I is a federal grant that currently provides additional funding and support to 44 FCPS elementary schools with the highest percentage of low income students. The Title I grant allows for supplemental resources to address four major goals:

- Improving language arts strategies and skills;
- Developing mathematics concepts and skills;
- Promoting critical thinking and problem solving skills;
- Encouraging family engagement in the education of children.

By using collaboration and best instructional practices, highly qualified staff in Title I schools work to close achievement gaps and help all students master Virginia's college and career-ready reading and mathematics standards. For more information, call 571-423-4700.

Transitional ESOL High School Program

The Transitional ESOL High School program is offered for beginning English learners (WIDA English language proficiency level 1 and 2) who are 18 years or older. Classes support older English learners who have limited, interrupted, or no prior schooling and are working towards a high school diploma. Evening classes are available at six sites and daytime programming is available at two additional sites.

For more information, call 703-208-7877 or go to www.fcps.edu and search for Transitional ESOL High School.

Volunteers

FCPS welcomes volunteers at all schools to serve in a variety of areas. Citizens are urged to participate by contacting the nearest school or office.

World Languages Immersion Program

Select elementary and middle schools offer immersion programs in French, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, and German. Applications are available in all elementary schools in January and online by going to www.fcps.edu and searching for Language Immersion. For more information, call world languages at 571-423-4602.





ORGANIZATION

The School Board

A 12-member School Board is elected to four-year terms that are concurrent with the terms of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; one School Board member represents each of nine magisterial (election) districts, and three members serve at large. The current School Board members' terms expire on December 31, 2019.

A student representative, selected for a one-year term at a nominating convention conducted by the countywide Student Advisory Council, participates in discussions but does not vote.

Sandra S. Evans, Chair

Mason District
571-423-1083

Jane K. Strauss, Vice Chair

Dranesville District
571-423-1087

Karen Corbett Sanders

Mt. Vernon District
571-423-1086

Jeanette Hough

At-Large Member
571-423-1091

Pat Hynes

Hunter Mill District
571-423-1082

Tamara Derenak Kaufax

Lee District
571-423-1081

Ryan L. McElveen

At-Large Member
571-423-1089

Megan O. McLaughlin

Braddock District
571-423-1088

Ilryong Moon

At-Large Member
571-423-1090

Dalia Palchik

Providence District
571-423-1084

Elizabeth L. Schultz

Springfield District
571-423-1080

Thomas Wilson

Sully District
571-423-1085

Laura Chu

Thomas Jefferson High School
for Science and Technology
571-423-1092

Current as of July 2016.

Function

The School Board sets general school policy and, within the framework of Virginia Board of Education regulations, establishes guidelines that will ensure the proper administration of the county school program.

All School Board policies and regulations are available by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Policies and Directives. A search mechanism and numerical index is provided. If you do not have Internet access and would like a printed copy of any policy or regulation, please direct your request to your child's school principal.

Meetings

Regularly scheduled business meetings are held twice each month, except in August, at 7 p.m. at Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. These meetings are open to the public and are broadcast live on cable Channel 21; a live video stream is also available at www.fcps.edu. Special meetings, public hearings, and work sessions on various subjects are scheduled frequently and are also open to the public. Specific topics for public hearings include boundaries, the budget, and the capital improvement program.

More information, including calendars, agendas, and regular business and work session meeting minutes, are available from the FCPS website (www.fcps.edu).

Communication

The School Board welcomes comments from Fairfax County residents and believes that strong community engagement and outreach are important components of a successful school system.

There are opportunities for community members to address the Board at regular meetings and public hearings. You may also mail your written comments to the School Board Office at:

8115 Gatehouse Road, Suite 5400
Falls Church, VA 22042

Or submit a question to the School Board by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Contact Us.

For general information or with questions, call 571-423-1075.

ORGANIZATION

Administration

Karen K. Garza, Superintendent of Schools, is supported by a Leadership Team composed of:

- A deputy superintendent.
- A chief academic officer.
- A chief operating officer.
- A chief of staff.
- A division counsel.
- A director of operations.
- Assistant superintendents administering:
 - ◆ facilities and transportation services.
 - ◆ financial services.
 - ◆ human resources.
 - ◆ information technology.
 - ◆ instructional services.
 - ◆ special services.
- Five region assistant superintendents.

The schools are divided into five regions, each comprising four to six high schools and their feeder elementary and middle schools. Each region is led by an assistant superintendent and is served by an executive principal. Two executive principals for school improvement also provide support to the regions.

Schools are listed by type, by region, and by special programs in the school directory available by going to www.fcps.edu and clicking on Schools and Centers.

The assistant superintendent of each region:

- Monitors, assesses, and evaluates school effectiveness to ensure that a high-quality instructional program is provided for all students.
- Monitors student achievement and implementation of the Program of Studies.
- Directs the provision of student services.
- Evaluates principals.
- Responds to parental concerns that cannot be resolved at the local school.

All region assistant superintendents' offices are located at the Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042-1203. Region office phone numbers follow:

Region 1 571-423-1110

Region 2 571-423-1120

Region 3 571-423-1130

Region 4 571-423-1140

Region 5 571-423-1150

Parents with concerns are encouraged to first contact teachers, then school principals; they may also contact assistant superintendents in the appropriate region offices.

Nondiscrimination/Americans With Disabilities Statement

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex (including but not limited to, sexual harassment, Title IX, pregnancy, sexual orientation, and gender identity), marital status, religion, national origin, age (40 or older), disability, or genetic information in its programs and activities. These protections apply to students, employees, and other members of the public. FCPS also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. FCPS is committed to equal access and equal opportunity in all services and employment; to include its policies, complaint process, program accessibility, religious accommodations and other Equal Employment Opportunity matters. FCPS prohibits retaliation against individuals who report allegations of discrimination, file a formal complaint, or participate in the investigative process.

Compliance is coordinated by the directors of the following:

Office of Equity and Employee Relations

Department of Human Resources

571-423-3050 or TTY 711

Regarding equal employment opportunity, discrimination, and sexual harassment issues.

Office of Special Education Procedural Support

Department of Special Services

571-423-4290

Regarding programs and activities for students with disabilities.

Office of Design and Construction Services

Department of Facilities and Transportation Services

571-423-2200

Regarding access to facilities.

Correspondence may be addressed to any of the above offices and sent to:

8115 Gatehouse Road
Falls Church, VA 22042-1203