



Profile 2010-2011

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS • FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

Fairfax County Public Schools, the twelfth largest school system in the nation (approximately 175,296 students), is located in Northern Virginia in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area.

COMMUNITY

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is located in Fairfax County, Virginia, the most populous jurisdiction in Virginia and the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area with more than 1,015,302 residents. Approximately 59 percent of all county residents over 25 years of age have completed four years of college.

FCPS has 27 high schools with a total high school enrollment of 48,320. The average number of course units taken by each graduate is 28.6. The average class size in high school is 29.5 students. The average per-pupil cost for high school students is projected to be \$11,205 in 2010-2011.

CURRICULUM

The instructional program for FCPS is defined by the Program of Studies. This comprehensive, rigorous curriculum contains benchmarks outlined in the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL), as well as, objectives that offer students opportunities to extend their learning based upon their aptitudes and interests.

Six high school academies, operating as schools within schools, offer highly technical and specialized courses not found at all high schools. Courses are available in Career and Technical Education (CTE), fine arts, and world languages and can be accessed by students from all high schools. The CTE courses offer numerous credentialing opportunities for students who pass industry certification exams.

Advanced academic courses are offered in all high schools and are open to all students who seek academic rigor. Students may enroll in honors courses as underclassmen and continue in Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or dual enrollment courses. FCPS is also home to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, a public magnet school and a Governor's School offering a comprehensive curriculum, emphasizing science, mathematics, and technology.

ACHIEVEMENT

FCPS educates 15 percent of the public high school juniors in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 2010, FCPS had 189 National Merit Semifinalists, which constituted 46 percent of Virginia's semifinalists. Additionally, 21 seniors were selected as semifinalists in the 2010 National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Black Students which constituted 33 percent of Virginia's semifinalists.

GRADUATES

Ninety-three percent of the approximately 12,440 FCPS 2010 high school graduates are attending post-secondary educational institutions. Of this group:

- 62.2 percent attend four-year colleges
- 28.7 percent attend two-year colleges
- 4.3 percent pursue military/employment
- 2.0 percent pursue other educational plans

SAT SCORES

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

	Critical Reading Average			Mathematics Average			Writing Average		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
FCPS	547	552	552	565	569	569	542	543	543
VIRGINIA	511	511	512	512	512	512	499	498	497
NATION	502	501	501	515	515	516	494	493	492

GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND CLASS RANK

Grade point average (GPA) is calculated on the basis of all high school courses for which credit has been earned, attempted, and previously awarded. FCPS high schools do not rank students.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grading System Prior to September 2009

A (94-100) = 4.0	C (74-79) = 2.0
B+ (90-93) = 3.5	D+ (70-73) = 1.5
B (84-89) = 3.0	D (64-69) = 1.0
C+ (80-83) = 2.5	F (below 64) = 0.0

Effective September 2009

FCPS adopted a new grading scale effective September 2009. Changes in the FCPS grading policy include a modified ten-point grading scale that uses pluses and minuses. An asterisk (*) is used on the transcript to distinguish B+, C+, and D+ grades earned prior to September 2009. For example, B* = B+.

A (93-100) = 4.0	B- (80-82) = 2.7	D+ (67-69) = 1.3
A- (90-92) = 3.7	C+ (77-79) = 2.3	D (64-66) = 1.0
B+ (87-89) = 3.3	C (73-76) = 2.0	F (below 64) = 0.0
B (83-86) = 3.0	C- (70-72) = 1.7	

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

Additional Weighting for AP, IB, and Dual Enrollment

Students who take a year-long AP or IB course are granted 1.0 added to their GPA calculation for each AP or IB course taken. Also, selected semester-long dual enrollment courses are granted 0.5 added to their GPA calculation.

Additional Weighting for Honors

Students who take year-long high school honors courses in English, mathematics, science, or social studies are granted a 0.5 added to their GPA calculation for each course taken.

Declaration of Nondiscrimination

No student, employee, or applicant for employment in the Fairfax County Public Schools shall, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, disability, or age (under certain conditions), be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Compliance is coordinated by the directors of the following: Office of Design and Construction Services (571-423-2280) regarding access to facilities; Office of Equity and Compliance (571-423-3050 or dial 711 for access to Telecommunications Relay Services, TRS), regarding equal employment opportunity, discrimination, and sexual harassment issues; Due Process and Eligibility (703-317-3000), Department of Special Services, regarding programs and activities for students with disabilities. Correspondence may be addressed to the above offices and sent to 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, Virginia 22042.