



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***FAIRGRADE ANNOUNCES MAJOR MILESTONE --PETITION SIGNATURES NOW OVER 5000--***

**Fairfax County, VA –Monday, June 2, 2008 –** FAIRGRADE, a parent-driven organization that is advocating for major revisions of the grading policies in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), today announced that signatures for the FAIRGRADE petition have now surpassed the 5000 mark.

“This is a significant number considering the fact that the FAIRGRADE petition was launched only two months ago. The response from Fairfax parents, business, and community leaders is incredible. The compelling data and research is there and people are responding to it,” said FAIRGRADE co-founder Louise Epstein.

Fellow FAIRGRADE co-founder Marcy Newberger added that petition signers who are accessing the petition on-line at the FAIRGRADE website ([www.FAIRGRADE.org](http://www.FAIRGRADE.org)) are adding their own anecdotal evidence about Fairfax County’s unfair grading system, “It is quite clear that FCPS students are feeling the effects of losing out on admissions’ opportunities and valuable merit scholarships to other students whose school systems use the traditional 10-point grading scale.”

Megan McLaughlin, another FAIRGRADE co-founder, said the summer calendar won’t slow down FAIRGRADE’s efforts. “Several members within the Fairfax business community have already put us on their radar screen and we are planning an outreach campaign to follow up on their interest. And we’ll continue our efforts with the parent community through summer recreational leagues.”

McLaughlin added, “FAIRGRADE is building an incredible network and we feel confident about our ability to reach all interested parties.”

The Fairfax County School Board is scheduled to discuss the FAIRGRADE issue at their work session on Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Individuals who wish to learn more about FAIRGRADE’s research and grading policy recommendations can visit FAIRGRADE’s website at: [www.FAIRGRADE.org](http://www.FAIRGRADE.org).

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