



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***FAIRGRADE iPetition Signatures Hit the 10,000 mark  
--Public Consensus Demonstrates Mandate for 10-Point Scale--***

**Fairfax County, VA –Thursday, January 22, 2009–** FAIRGRADE today announced that signatures for the FAIRGRADE iPetition calling for changes to the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) grading policy have now surpassed the 10,000 mark.

“This is huge!” said FAIRGRADE President Megan McLaughlin. “10,000 concerned citizens have demonstrated a clear consensus for a 10-point grading scale with pluses and minuses and added weights for advanced courses.”

FAIRGRADE researcher Sara Schneider, who monitors FAIRGRADE’s iPetition said the group added over 1500 signatures in the last two weeks alone. “After the last School Board meeting in early January, the public became incredibly motivated and active. Many of the comments we’re seeing echo one of the student speakers who told FCPS officials ‘...this issue isn’t rocket science – change the grading policy,’” said Schneider.

The FCPS School Board is scheduled to vote on the grading policy tonight.

McLaughlin said FAIRGRADE is expecting hundreds of supporters will attend the meeting. “The public is looking for our School Board to exhibit strong leadership on this issue and that includes a vote for specifics – including the 10-point grading scale with pluses and minuses, retroactive additional weights for AP/IB and Honors courses and implementation dates,” said McLaughlin.

***School Board Meeting – January 22, 2009  
Time: 7:00pm - \*Vote is expected around 9:30pm  
Address: Luther Jackson Middle School – 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church***

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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