



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Catherine Lorenze, Campaign Manager & Communications  
Email: [clorenze@verizon.net](mailto:clorenze@verizon.net)  
Internet: [www.FAIRGRADE.org](http://www.FAIRGRADE.org)

### ***FAIRGRADE ANNOUNCES PARTICIPATION IN ROUNDTABLE - Cites Reservations About the Research Application-***

**Fairfax County, VA – Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1008** --- FAIRGRADE today announced their participation in the FCPS sponsored Roundtable panel discussion concerning current FCPS Grading Policies that will take place this Monday, 8.25.08.

FAIRGRADE Co-Founder and President Megan McLaughlin says she is looking forward to discussing the views of FAIRGRADE's supporters, "As a former Admissions Officer for Georgetown University, I recognize how FCPS' current grading policies are costing Fairfax County families money in lost merit scholarships, as well as lost opportunities in admissions and college honor's programs. Hopefully, this panel discussion will further illustrate these concerns."

Although listed as a co-host of the Roundtable with FCPS, McLaughlin acknowledges that FAIRGRADE has some reservations about the event, "Unfortunately, this became an FCPS sponsored event in which their staff controlled the format, and to a large extent, most of the content, how it will be edited and how it will be presented to the general public."

In addition to FAIRGRADE representation, a FCPS student, a FCPS parent and four admissions officers from area universities will be among those taking part in the panel discussion. FAIRGRADE Vice-President and Co-Founder Marcy Newberger cautions that the limited viewpoints presented on the panel should not be given too much weight in FCPS' final report and recommendations.

"These are admissions officers from only four of some 3000 Colleges across the United States. They come from local universities so, of course, they understand the nuances with FCPS' grading policies. FAIRGRADE has always acknowledged that point. But Fairfax County students apply to well over 150 colleges throughout the United States and our research shows they don't necessarily take into account FCPS' out-dated, 6-point grading policy. We want the community to understand that the Roundtable's scope, and this part of FCPS' research, is only a cursory snapshot of the entire Grading Policies issue."

Back in June of this year, the FCPS research team devised a research plan to assess grading policies. The plan includes the analysis of grade distribution data for FCPS and

other comparable school districts, analysis of recent trends in high school grading policies, as well as a survey-prepared with FAIRGRADE's input-that will be sent to 100 of the 3000 college admissions offices in the United States.

The Roundtable is scheduled for 1:00pm at Luther Jackson Middle School in Falls Church on Monday, August 25, 2008. For more information, go to [www.FAIRGRADE.org](http://www.FAIRGRADE.org) or [www.FCPS.edu](http://www.FCPS.edu). Fairgrade Leadership will be available before and after the Roundtable discussion for interviews.

*FAIRGRADE was created in January 2008 to advocate for major revisions of the current grading policies in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). To date, over 6000+ concerned citizens have signed FAIRGRADE's iPetition.*