



"If I were a parent in Fairfax County, I would want it changed."

Shannon Gundy, University of Maryland, Director of Undergraduate Admissions

What is the Issue? Don't Schools Know FCPS' Reputation?

Fairfax students outperform students from the state of Virginia and across the nation in SAT scores, yet their GPAs don't reflect similar achievement because of FCPS' outdated grading policies that have been in place since 1962. As a result, students in Fairfax County are losing out on valuable scholarships and admissions opportunities to other students whose school districts use the traditional, 10-point grading scale. Admissions Officers attending the FCPS Roundtable on grading policies in August 2008 confirmed that many out-of-state colleges and universities do not know FCPS' grading policy nuances.

Here is how an FCPS student compares to their counterpart in nearby Montgomery County:

FAIRFAX STUDENT					MONTGOMERY STUDENT			
LETTER GRADE	NUMBER GRADE	EXTRA POINT	FINAL GRADE	CLASS/SCORE	LETTER GRADE	NUMBER GRADE	EXTRA POINT	FINAL GRADE
B+	3.5		3.5	Math Honors 93%	A	4.0	1.0	5.0
B+	3.5		3.5	English Honors 90%	A	4.0	1.0	5.0
A	4.0		4.0	Chemistry Honors 95%	A	4.0	1.0	5.0
C+	2.5	0.5	3.0	History AP 83%	B	3.0	1.0	4.0
B+	3.5		3.5	Spanish 92%	A	4.0		4.0
GPA 3.5					GPA 4.6			

How Does This Hurt FCPS Students & Families?

Fairfax County students are competing on an increasingly national stage for college admissions and valuable scholarships. For many universities, a student simply needs a 3.5 GPA and a solid SAT Score to be eligible for an automatic, merit scholarship that may total thousands of dollars. Overall, this GPA inequity **COSTS** FCPS students and families in terms of: **Out-of-State College Admissions, Academic/Merit Scholarships, College Honors Programs, NCAA Eligibility and Scholarships, and Good Student Driver Discounts**

What Grading Policy Recommendations Does FAIRGRADE Support & Not Support?

FAIRGRADE supports:

- A 10-point grading scale with pluses and minuses
- Increased weights for Honors, AP/IB classes
- Numeric grades

FAIRGRADE does NOT support:

- No changes at all
- Increased weights for AP/IB classes, but no weight for Honors classes and no change to the grading scale
- Increased weights for Honors and AP/IB classes, but no change to the grading scale
- No changes, coupled with a resolution to ask the state of Virginia to set a statewide grading policy (this could take years)

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