



FAIRGRADE Post-Roundtable Press Statement – 8.25.08

“FAIRGRADE is extremely pleased that Admissions Officers serving on today’s Roundtable panel attested to the fact that FCPS’ grading policies can put its students at a disadvantage when it comes to valuable merit scholarships, admissions and honors programs. It is important to note that all the college admissions panelists agreed that changing to a 10-point scale would not have a negative impact on the FCPS reputation and that some benefits could come from this change.

Many Fairfax County families know the current, outdated grading policies are costing their families money and lost opportunity. The public is looking for strong leadership that will reach a fair decision on this issue in late Fall, 2008. We hope the comments from today’s panelists will resonate with FCPS school administrators and the School Board.

FAIRGRADE will continue to hold FCPS to the same high standards that we applied to our own research. We firmly believe that the FAIRGRADE data show that these current grading policies do put FCPS students at a disadvantage. We look forward to FCPS bringing forth sound, empirical data - with thorough analysis – to guide its future grading policies, or to justify current grading policies.

FAIRGRADE cautions that today’s Roundtable discussion should not be given too much weight in FCPS’ final report in late Fall, 2008. These were the opinions of only four college admissions officers from some 3000 colleges in the United States. Because admissions’ practices vary widely throughout the United States, current FCPS policies often put its students at a disadvantage with respect to admissions, merit scholarships and honors programs at many different colleges.

FAIRGRADE remains dedicated to working in good faith with FCPS officials. We have developed a respectful and collaborative relationship with Assistant Superintendent Patrick Murphy. He has been very committed and FAIRGRADE will continue to encourage a transparent and open process for researching the grading policies issue.”

Megan McLaughlin
FAIRGRADE President & Co-Founder & FCPS Roundtable Panelist