



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***--FAIRGRADE Responds to FCPS' Report Regarding SAT Scores-- Asks Why FCPS GPAs Don't Reflect Similar Achievement***

**Fairfax County, VA – Saturday, August 30, 2008** – FAIRGRADE today announced that the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) recent report showing FCPS high school students have again surpassed SAT Scores for the state of Virginia and the nation is further evidence that grading scale policies need to be adjusted for FCPS students.

“How is it possible that FCPS students are outperforming students not only across the state of Virginia but across the entire United States in the SAT tests, and yet, FCPS students’ GPAs don’t show similar, higher-than-national achievement? said FAIRGRADE President & Co-founder Megan McLaughlin.

“FCPS’ SAT report just further bolsters FAIRGRADE’s contention that current grading policies deny FCPS students the fair grades they deserve. It’s time to change these grading policies to ensure that they work for our students rather than against them,” said McLaughlin.

FAIRGRADE has presented thorough evidence to FCPS demonstrating discrepancies between levels of SAT and GPA achievement for FCPS students as compared to the nation and to neighboring jurisdictions. FAIRGRADE has stressed the importance of using SAT scores to measure the fairness of grading policies. According to the Washington Post (8.27.08 - Page B01), FCPS’ SAT average is 1654 whereas Montgomery County Public Schools’(MOCO) SAT average is 1617. Yet, FCPS students receive notably lower GPAs for the same level of performance as MOCO students. (see table)

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

Right now, FCPS students are losing out on scholarship and admissions' opportunities to kids across the nation who have lower SAT scores and higher GPAs than FCPS students. While Superintendent Jack Dale states that this SAT report 'shows dedication on the part of the students who are headed to college,' FAIRGRADE is asking that FCPS show its students the same dedication by revising the grading policies and leveling the playing field," said McLaughlin.

Washington Post article with FCPS and MoCo SAT scores:

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/26/AR2008082601468\\_2.html?sid=ST2008082603308&s\\_pos=](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/26/AR2008082601468_2.html?sid=ST2008082603308&s_pos=)

*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.*

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