



**FAIRGRADE RESOLUTION FOR CHANGE**

**WHEREAS:**

1. Fairfax County students have higher SAT scores but lower grades, on average, than other students in the United States.
2. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) uses a variation on a six point grading scale that was adopted around 1981, and was derived from a pure six point grading scale that dates back to 1962.
3. FCPS does not weight honors classes and weights AP and IB classes by 0.5, while many other school districts weight honors and weight AP and IB classes more than 0.5, in computing weighted Grade Point Averages (GPAs).
4. Current FCPS grading policies:
  - a. Make it more difficult for FCPS students to qualify for merit scholarships;
  - b. Place FCPS students at a disadvantage when they apply to out-of-state colleges;
  - c. Place FCPS students at a disadvantage when they apply to honors programs for both in-state and out-of-state colleges;
  - d. Make it more difficult for FCPS students to qualify for NCAA athletic scholarships;
  - e. Make it more difficult for FCPS students to qualify for “good student” discounts on car insurance.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The FCPS School Board should:
  - a. adopt a 10-point grading scale with pluses and minuses or a numeric grading scale;
  - b. weight honors classes; and
  - c. increase weighting for AP and IB classes.
2. The FCPS School Board should adopt these changes in policy in spring 2009, so they can be fully implemented starting in school year 2009-2010.
3. The FCPS School Board should not defer consideration of these issues for any reason, including efforts by the state government to evaluate grading policies.