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***FAIRGRADE Sends “iPetition Special Report” to FCPS Officials
Says Public Testimonials are a Critical Consideration for Policy Changes***

Fairfax County, VA – Thursday, November 20th, 2008 – FAIRGRADE today announced that copies of FAIRGRADE’s “iPetition Special Report” have been sent to Fairfax County Public School Officials including Superintendent Dale, School Board members, Cluster Assistant Superintendents, high school principals and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The 80-page “iPetition Special Report” contains over 350 public testimonials that demonstrate the impact FCPS grading policies are having on FCPS students and families.

“This report reflects the overriding concern in the public’s mind about loss of scholarships, college admissions and honors program placement opportunities,” said FAIRGRADE Researcher Sara Schneider. “We were surprised by the numerous comments related to the stress that students and parents attribute to FCPS grading policies, as well as their impact on the children of military and State Department employees who move to Fairfax County. In addition, we were very pleased to see many supportive comments from educators,” said Schneider.

Schneider, who compiled the report for FAIRGRADE, said the report is broken down by category so that FCPS officials can see the different ways that current grading policies are affecting different segments of the community. “Members of the community, parents and students submitted these moving and powerful comments when they signed FAIRGRADE’s iPetition on our website,” said Schneider.

Megan McLaughlin, FAIRGRADE’s President and Co-founder said these public testimonials are a critical component for considering changes to existing FCPS grading policies. “These first-hand accounts are incredibly powerful and FAIRGRADE hopes that Superintendent Dale and the School Board will carefully consider these testimonials when reviewing the FCPS staff report in December,” McLaughlin said.

Copies of FAIRGRADE’s “iPetition Special Report” were hand-delivered on 11.19.08 by the FAIRGRADE leadership team. Hard copies of the iPetition report are available for the media. The entire body of testimonials can be viewed at www.FAIRGRADE.org. To date, over 7800 people have signed FAIRGRADE’s iPetition.

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