

How To Be Involved in Your Child's Education

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) welcomes parent involvement in their child's school experience. Your support and encouragement are crucial to your student's academic success.

Be an informed parent.

- Maintain communication with the school throughout the year. At the beginning of the year, review the school calendar, policies, and procedures.
- Read communication from the teacher, the school, and the school system such as, newsletters, memos, and notes. Ask questions if you need more information.
- Watch FCPS cable television programs and regularly review and search the FCPS web site www.fcps.edu.
- Sign up for *News You Choose* e-mail notifications (<http://www.fcps.edu>) on the bottom of the homepage.
- Become informed about your child's grade level curriculum – Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) and FCPS Program of Studies.
- Learn about and support the safety procedures your child's school has established.
- Notify the school when you change your home address or emergency contacts, and tell the school about important events that might affect your child.



Get to know your child's teacher.



- Establish continual communication with your child's teacher. Find out how to best contact the teacher and when it is best to contact him or her.
- Recognize that you are a partner in your child's education and have valuable information to share about your child. You are his or her first teacher and the only one that will last a lifetime.
- Talk with your child's teacher about the expectations he or she has for you and your child. Talk about the goals you both have for your child. Ask your child's teacher what you can do at home to support your child's academic achievement.

Support learning at home.

- Talk with your child about his or her school day and what he or she is learning at school. Listen to what your child shares.
- Learn about the FCPS guidelines for homework, and establish a homework routine at home.
- Understand how nutrition, rest, exercise, family, and fun activities affect your child's academic, physical, and social development.



Use resources available to FCPS families.

- Learn about after-school activities—clubs, athletics, tutoring, and School Age Child Care (SACC).
- If English is not your first language, find out about and use FCPS translation and interpretation resources.
- Get to know the parent liaison at your child's school and how he or she can support your involvement in your child's education.
- Learn how the school will accommodate your child's special needs—academic, health, emotional, and dietary.

Become an active supporter of education.

- Attend special functions held by the school—parent meetings, curriculum nights, parent education programs, concerts, athletic events, and school-wide social events.
- Join the parent-teacher organization and attend sponsored functions.
- Become involved in the decision-making process in your child's school—serve on a committee, complete surveys, and share your views.
- Offer to volunteer at your child's school—help in the classroom, library, or office. Work at home on school projects.
- Become a tutor or a mentor for children who need support.