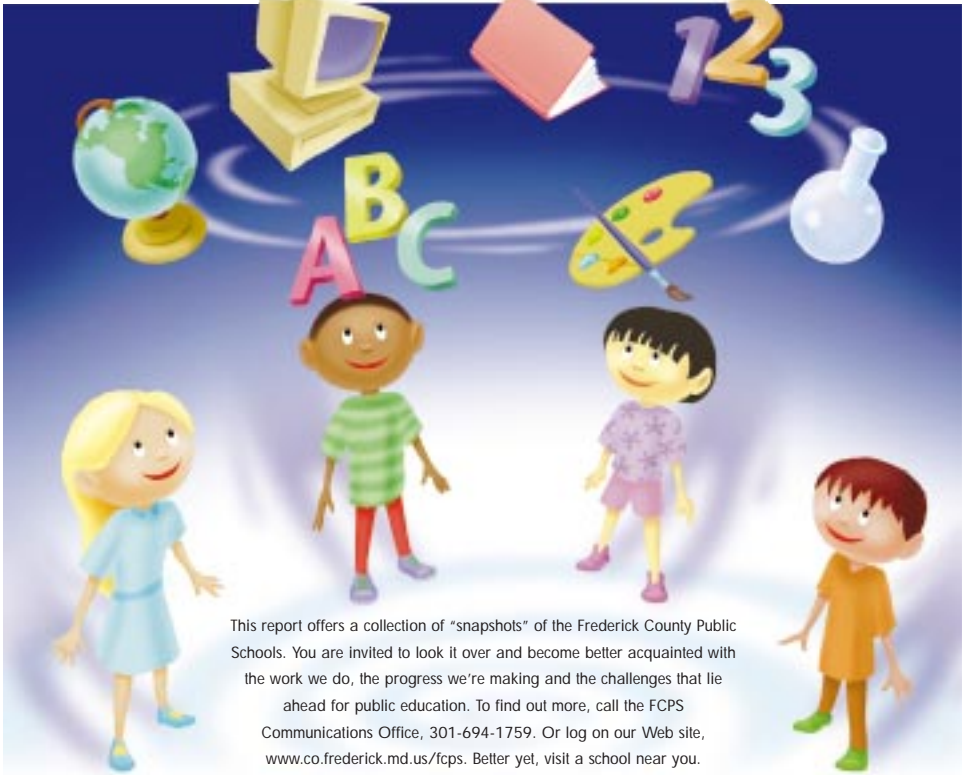


1999 SCHOOL REPORT



This report offers a collection of "snapshots" of the Frederick County Public Schools. You are invited to look it over and become better acquainted with the work we do, the progress we're making and the challenges that lie ahead for public education. To find out more, call the FCPS Communications Office, 301-694-1759. Or log on our Web site, www.co.frederick.md.us/fcps. Better yet, visit a school near you.

Our growing student population is more culturally and ethnically diverse than ever before. FCPS values this wealth of differences. And we aim to provide students of every country of origin, racial heritage and economic status the same access to challenging instruction and quality learning tools. The community can help by encouraging all children to aim high, work hard and take full advantage of rigorous learning experiences.



87.3% of FCPS 36,074 students are white. 12.7% are African American, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander or Native American. These figures approximate Frederick County's population demographics.



217 students participate in the English as a Second Language program, up from 165 in 1998-99. Spanish is the most commonly spoken among their 27 languages. Others include Korean, Russian, Burmese, Chinese, Arabic and more.



A large majority of students live in single-parent, blended or dual-income households. Some come from affluent homes and many from middle-income families, while low incomes qualify about 13% for a free or reduced-price lunch.

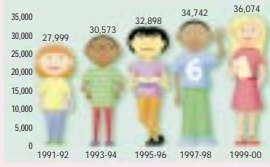


FCPS new Education That Is Multicultural plan brings greater focus to increasing expectations and achievement for all students. It also creates a positive, pro-active linkage with members of our minority community.

8 ADEQUATE CLASSROOM SPACE IN WELL-MAINTAINED BUILDINGS

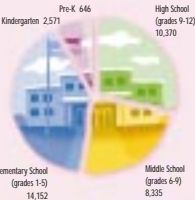
FCPS has 691 more students this year than last, and we anticipate a similar increase in fall 2000. The ability to keep pace with growth and suitably maintain older buildings will depend largely on future funding from the state and county.

Enrollment Growth



Number of Students by Level

FCPS has 49 traditional schools plus a Career & Technology Center and 3 alternative schools for students who require special education, a more controlled environment or a flexible schedule.



Classroom Space

More than half of Frederick County's K-12 students attend a school that is overcrowded according to state capacity standards.

Many of our schools are new. But 25 are over 30 years old. Aggressive preventive maintenance helps keep aging operating systems working effectively.

9 RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES

Frederick County's school budget includes three major funds that, when combined, cover the cost of educating, transporting and feeding area students and maintaining, constructing and renovating our school buildings.

Copies of the audited Annual Financial Report for 1998-99 are available from the Office of the Comptroller, Frederick County Public Schools, 7630 Hayward Road, Frederick, Maryland 21702.

1998-1999 Total Funding - \$255.17 Million

Operations - \$224.48 million

This is the main operating fund. County, state and federal funds, grants and interest income cover the cost of day-to-day operations and activities throughout the school system, including salaries, instructional materials, bus transportation and technology training.

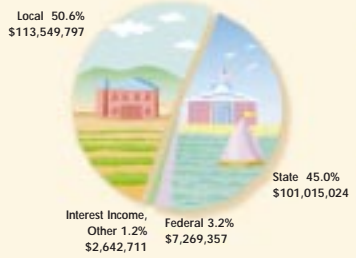
Food Service - \$6.51 million

Federal and state funds and income from selling meals reimburse FCPS for the cost of providing school meals.

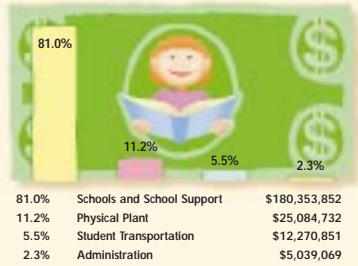
School Construction - \$24.18 million

The state and county provide funding for new school construction, major renovations and additions, technology equipment, land purchases and related costs for capital projects.

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM Operating Funds 1998-99



WHERE THE MONEY GOES Operating Expenses 1998-99



It costs an average of \$36 per day or \$6,559 per year to educate each student in the public school system.

Our administrative expenses per student rank 23rd, the 2nd lowest of Maryland's 24 school systems.

HOW SHOULD WE SPEND OUR EDUCATION DOLLARS?

Reading... Early Childhood Education... Textbooks... Curriculum Support... Technology... Salaries & Training... Athletic Field Maintenance... Special Education... Community Outreach

This is the time when the Board of Education and FCPS administrators prepare an operating budget request for the next school year. Before we submit the recommendation to the Frederick County Commissioners, we would like to know what you think should be the top budget priorities. Please take a few minutes to express your opinion through our Voice Poll process.

Take this 5-minute Voice Poll survey!

1. Call 1-800-381-7655.
2. When prompted, enter 8901.
3. Use your telephone keypad to enter your responses.

Your opinion counts!

Call anytime — 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! It's free and confidential. For survey details, visit our web site, www.co.frederick.md.us/fcps, or call 301-694-1759. Survey ends midnight, January 30.

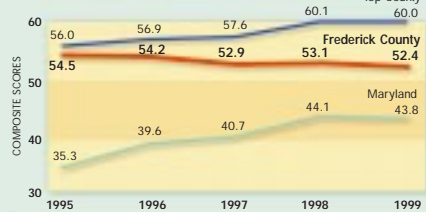


1 HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS WHO CAN THINK CRITICALLY AND SOLVE PROBLEMS

FCPS sets high standards for students and the system as a whole. Measures such as local, state and national tests help us evaluate how students are learning and determine the steps necessary to improve performance.

MSPAP

Students in grades 3, 5 and 8 take the Maryland School Performance Assessment Program tests, which are considered to be among the most difficult in the nation. FCPS's composite score is down slightly for 1999, as was the trend for a number of other counties and the state. We remain in the top third of Maryland's 24 school systems.

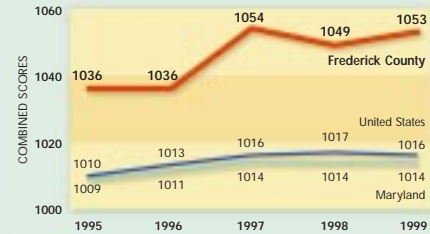


More than half of the senior class met Maryland's rigorous Certificate of Merit academic standards. And 8 in 10 FCPS graduates met Maryland's university system or career and technology requirements or both.

COMING SOON: Maryland's new High School Assessments. Passage of these exams will be tied to graduation. FCPS is also looking toward increasing local graduation requirements.

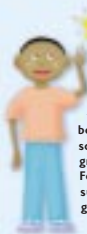


The combined average for CREs — the Criterion-Referenced Evaluation system tests given in grades 1-12 — improved slightly in 1999. The trend has been positive in all content areas except English since 1997. Recognizing the importance of strong reading skills, this year we completed the addition of reading specialists at all elementary and middle schools.



4 SIMILAR PROGRESS FOR ALL STUDENTS

FCPS believes that there should be few, if any, achievement or participation differences between ethnic, gender or socioeconomic groups.



Local, state and national test results show some evidence that the performance gap between ethnic and socioeconomic groups is narrowing. For instance, in all subjects tested at all grade levels, African-American students made greater gains on CREs than any other subgroup. SAT-1 scores are also up for females, African Americans and low socioeconomic students.



CREs, MSPAP and SAT-1 performances for African-American and impoverished student subgroups remain significantly below the results for white or more affluent students.

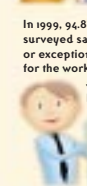
At 92.3% and 4.2% respectively, attendance and dropout rates among African Americans improved in 1999.

5 WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

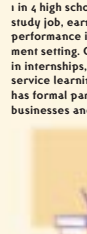
Parents, community leaders, businesses and citizens play a key role in assuring that our students are rewarded with a wide choice of offers from higher education and employers, and that they become contributing members of society.



7,950 adults volunteered in Frederick County public schools last year.



In 1999, 94.8% of 1,130 employers surveyed said students were well or exceptionally well prepared for the work expected of them at their place of business.



1 in 4 high school seniors holds a work-study job, earning credit for a solid performance in an approved employment setting. Other students participate in internships, apprenticeships and service learning opportunities. FCPS has formal partnerships with 284 local businesses and agencies.



In a pre-graduation survey, 70.4% of high school seniors said they planned to continue their education either full- or part-time at two-year or four-year colleges, technical institutions or in the military.

2 A SAFE & WELCOMING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

A school's climate can have a significant impact on students' ability to concentrate on learning and teachers' ability to focus on instruction.

Character Counts!

The nationally distinguished *Character Counts!* character education program is integrated into class work and school life K-12. It reinforces the core values of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. A 1999 perception survey to evaluate its success showed positive results since the program was introduced in 1997.



Frederick County's dropout rate is a low 2.66%, and the graduation rate is 99.8%, compared to Maryland's figures of 4.16% and 98.7%, respectively.

A smaller percentage of the total student population — 247 fewer students — were expelled or suspended in 1998-99 than during the previous school year.



3 COORDINATED SERVICES FOR CONTINUING SUCCESS

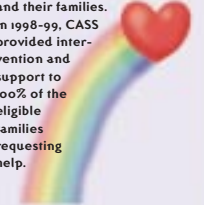
Efforts to assure that all children are prepared for success at the next level include support for students who need extra help with learning, family, economic or health problems.



Pre-K programs in 13 elementary schools serve 4-year-olds who have a special need for pre-kindergarten experiences. In addition, the Early Childhood Education program focuses on identifying struggling children when they are very young and helping them acquire the skills to become academically and socially successful.

Community Agency School Services works with families, agencies and schools in all 8 feeder areas to coordinate a variety of inter-agency social services needed by students and their families.

In 1998-99, CASS provided intervention and support to 100% of the eligible families requesting help.



Pull-down map set \$220



Goggles \$3
Beaker \$2

375 school buses transport 80% of all local public school children to and from school



Aquarium \$40

FCPS cafeterias serve 13,201 lunches and 1,108 breakfasts daily



Overhead projector \$165



Math Book \$45

Students' top picks among fruits and veggies: peaches and corn



Cafeteria Lunch Elementary \$1.35 Middle & High \$1.60

Over 12,000 students had vision or hearing screenings last year. Every day, about 2,000 students saw a school nurse or health technician for care ranging from a bandage or minor scrape to emergency care for a more serious injury or illness or assistance with medication.



First-year teacher's starting salary \$28,387

6 RECRUIT & RETAIN OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES

Employees who are dedicated to educating and nurturing FCPS students are the backbone of a high-performance educational system.

4,148 Total Employees

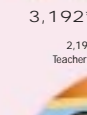
	Professional	Support
Administration	27	45
Food Service	2	195
Instruction	2,160	246
Maintenance/Facilities	3	98
Mid-Level Management	141	163
Operations	3	323
Planning & Acquisition	6	6
Printing	1	9
Pupil Services/Health	9	21
Self-Insurance Fund	1	2
Special Education	283	109
Transportation	4	291
	2,640*	1,508*

*Full-time equivalent positions as of September 30, 1999. Some employees work part-time.

FCPS' starting salary for first-year teachers with Bachelor's degrees ranks 16th among Maryland's 24 school systems. 57% of our teaching staff hold a Master's degree or Advanced Professional teaching certificate.



FCPS hired 295 new teachers to start this school year. More than a quarter have 5 or more years of teaching experience, and a third have advanced degrees or post-college training. 4% of 1999's teacher applicants were minorities. Of the new teachers hired for 1999-2000, 6% are African American, Hispanic or Asian.



3,192* In-School Employees



* As of November 15, 1999. Some employees work part-time. ** Includes general and special education.

7 TECHNOLOGY TO EXPLORE NEW IDEAS AND INFORMATION

The latest technology gives students

electronic access to a wide world of information and the capability to transform it into useful knowledge. For teachers, technology is a valuable instructional tool. For administrative staff, it means greater efficiency and productivity.

Systemwide, our schools average 1 computer for every 7 students.

This school year, FCPS will add more computer equipment, create more networks and provide more instructional technology training than in all previous years combined. By next fall, all schools will have the ability to transmit voice, data and video signals.



Every school is Internet-connected. Nearly 9 in 10 schools have their own Web page. And during 2000, students at 6 of our 8 high schools will gain access to advanced courses through distance learning technology.