

## Response to Questions on the FY 2012 Budget

**Request By:** Board of Supervisors

**Question:** What is the FCPS dropout rate and how is it calculated?

**Response:** The following response was prepared by the Fairfax County Public Schools:

In recent years, FCPS has moved toward reporting a more complete picture of our students by using the Virginia on-time graduation rate as our benchmark (the report includes the percentage of students categorized as dropout). An on-time graduate for 2010 is a student who entered ninth grade for the first time in school year 2006-2007 and earned one of the diplomas recognized by the Virginia Board of Education in four years. FCPS on-time graduation rate of 91.2 percent for the class of 2010 exceeds the state average of 85.5 percent and is an increase from the prior year. The table below provides more detailed data.

### 2010 Cohort Report: Fairfax County Public Schools Division Summary

	Adjusted Cohort	% Graduated	% GED	% Certificate	% Still Enrolled	% Dropouts	% Long-Term Absence
All Students	13,287	91.18%	1.49%	0.02%	1.35%	5.67%	0.04%
Female	6,426	92.42%	1.42%	0.02%	1.10%	4.79%	0.02%
Male	6,861	90.02%	1.56%	0.01%	1.59%	6.49%	0.06%
Black	1,419	87.53%	1.34%	0.01%	3.10%	7.26%	0.14%
Hispanic	2,098	79.31%	2.05%	0.00%	2.07%	19.49%	0.00%
White	6,609	95.60%	1.48%	0.00%	0.71%	2.00%	0.03%
Asian	2,510	94.50%	0.96%	0.04%	0.80%	3.65%	0.04%
American Indian	44	88.64%	2.27%	0.00%	0.00%	6.82%	0.00%
Native Hawaiian	10	80.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	0.00%
Other	3,161	94.12%	1.20%	0.03%	1.04%	3.45%	0.03%
Students with Disabilities	1,743	90.42%	2.07%	0.11%	NA	7.29%	0.00%
Economically Disadvantaged	2,588	85.16%	1.58%	0.04%	3.17%	0.43%	0.00%
Limited English Proficient (LEP)*	2,709	79.03%	1.48%	0.07%	0.89%	18.16%	0.00%
Homeless	130	73.08%	1.54%	0.00%	7.69%	16.92%	0.00%

\* Includes all students identified as LEP at least once since entering high school

More specific information on the dropout portion of this report is available here: [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics\\_reports/graduation\\_completion/cohort\\_reports/faq.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/graduation_completion/cohort_reports/faq.pdf)

In addition to the above, FCPS is required to report data to VDOE that is used to compute an annual dropout rate (defined differently from the dropout percentage in the on-time graduation report). While this data has become somewhat archaic due to the development of longitudinal reports like the one above, it is required by the State and available here: <http://www.fcps.edu/Reporting/historical/pdfs/dropouts/drop0809.pdf>.