

## **Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008**

**Request By:** Supervisor Foust

**Response By:** Fairfax County Public Schools

**Question:** Please discuss the County's current policy requiring students who ride a school bus to an event being required to return on a school bus. Has consideration been given for when sufficient cars are available, allowing or even mandating that families provide transportation following an event so that there are not buses sitting with engines running for hours?

**Response:** The school system's policy requires that all team members ride the bus home from competitions. FCPS follows this protocol for safety reasons as well as team unity. Exceptions are allowed if the Director of Student Activities (DSA) is notified in advance, and the parent is there to pick up the athlete for specific reasons (e.g., religious, family event, medical). While FCPS discourages this practice, allowances are made. For scheduled practices, students are allowed to drive themselves, get picked up, and in some cases walk home, but it must be cleared ahead of time by the DSA, so FCPS can account for the student.

Exceptions are made for Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST). Students from TJHSST often ride home with their parents from away games since they live throughout the County.

FCPS adopted a system-wide policy prohibiting buses from idling for more than three minutes. If one observes violations of this policy, FCPS requests a report of the violation sent to FCPS transportation services that includes the date, time and the bus number of the bus in question.