



AP, IB, Dual Enrollment

Academic Matters - June 2025



GOALS

1 Strong Start: Pre-K-12

2 Safe, Supported, Included, and Empowered

3 Academic Growth and Excellence

4 Equitable Access and Opportunity

5 Leading for Tomorrow's Innovation

The Four Pillars identify what FCPS must do well to be able to reach our goals for all students.

A

**Differentiated &
Culturally Responsive
Learning Environments**

B

**Vibrant Home, School,
& Community
Partnerships**

C

**Diverse, Adaptive, &
Supported Workforce**

D

**Culture of Equity,
Excellence, &
Accountability**

Benefits of Participation in Advanced Coursework

Taking advanced coursework in FCPS:

- Builds college level skills and confidence
- Helps students stand out during the college admissions process
- May save families money on tuition by earning a qualifying exam score (AP/IB) or grade in the course (DE)

High school students who enroll in advanced coursework, regardless of whether the courses are AP, IB, or DE, are more likely to:

- Graduate from high school
- Attend and stay in college
- Earn a college degree

This holds true for a variety of student demographics including gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. (Chatterji et al, 2021; Morgan et al, 2018).



Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Enrollment & Performance

Year	# of Exams	% Passing
2022	46,083	72.5
2023	46,192	69.5
2024	49,445	72.5
2025	56,690 (est.)	



AP Exams are scored on a scale of 1-5, with a score of 3 considered passing.
IB exams are scored on a scale of 1-7, with a score of 4 considered passing.

Dual Enrollment (DE): Participation & Performance

The number of students and DE classes taken by FCPS students has been increasing since COVID



Year	# of Students Taking a DE Course	# of DE Classes Taken	B or higher mark
2022	4,083	4,977	4,484
2023	5,740	6,616	5,877
2024	6,986	8,123	7,200
2025	7,091	9,059	TBA
2026 As of 5/29/2025*	8,347	12,120	

- DE students do not take a culminating test in May like AP and IB students.
- DE students earn a final grade on their partner college transcript. Each higher education institution determines how credits earned from a DE course may transfer.

Strategies to Expand Access to Advanced Course Offerings

AP Human Geography (9th/10th grade) and AP Seminar (10th grade)

- Introduced new course offerings in three high schools in 2024
- Expanding to all AP schools for SY2025-26
- Enrollment increase of at least 35% in each course following new offering options

AP Precalculus

- 96% of students scored a 3 or higher on the exam in the first year the course was offered

IB Career-related Programme (CP):

- Adding the CP to 3 more IB high schools (Marshall, Edison, and Lewis), resulting in 5 schools with CP (including Mount Vernon and South Lakes)

Dual Enrollment (DE) Expansion:

- New partnership with Marymount University for SY25-26
- Continuing partnerships with NOVA, JMU, and Longwood University
- Adding new DE courses with NOVA and JMU based on school and student interest
- Schools continue to bring DE to their school buildings for the first time and expand on current offerings
- Incentive for teachers to earn their DE credentials by taking graduate level courses with support from VDOE's DE tuition reimbursement grant

Partnership with Abl

While middle and high school students are required to take certain subjects (e.g. English, social studies, math, science), they typically have choice in the level of required course they take and in what subject they earn additional elective credits.



These course selection decisions can be described as academically intense if they prepare a student for the rigor of college-level coursework and other post-secondary opportunities.

The partnership with Abl will assist FCPS in:

- Examining patterns of academically intense course-taking in the context of students overall readiness for postsecondary success
- Giving school leaders the opportunity to examine and respond to trends in course-taking patterns
- Monitoring students' access to rigorous and robust course options that align with and prepare them to pursue their interests and future goals