



**EXCELLENCE
EQUITY &
OPPORTUNITY**

2023-30 STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 3 Report

February 20, 2025



SIDE



STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-30 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

Goal 3: Academic Growth and Excellence

Every student will acquire critical and creative thinking skills, meet/exceed high academic standards, and achieve their highest academic potential.

Equity Commitment: We will utilize available evidence to provide access to challenging academic programs and necessary supports that celebrate each student's humanity, growth, and attainment of high levels of academic performance.

- A. Growth and performance in coursework (e.g., course grades, grade point average [GPA], meeting Individualized Education Program [IEP] goals, and language acquisition goals) (including students with 504s)
- B. Growth and performance on state/national/international assessments in reading, math, social studies, and science
- C. Successful completion of Algebra 1 by 8th grade
- D. Evidence of progression towards or successful completion of advanced coursework (e.g., Honors, Advanced Placement [AP], International Baccalaureate [IB], dual enrollment, Career and Technical Education [CTE], etc.)
- E. Growth with evidence in at least one/two self-identified Portrait of a Graduate skills, annually
- F. Students reading on grade level by the end of 3rd grade

The [Goal 3 Baseline report](#) was presented on December 4, 2023

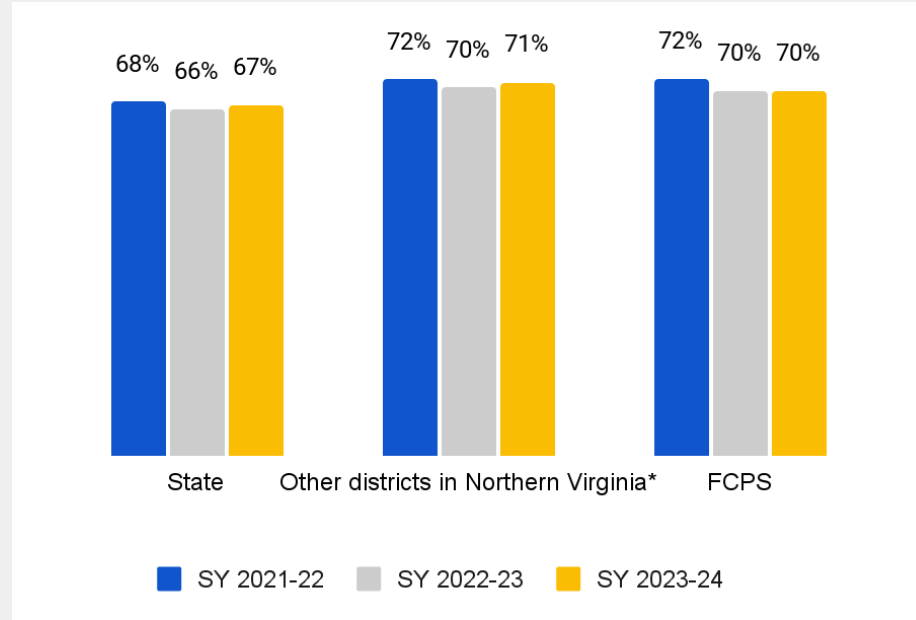
Reading by 3rd grade



Reading by 3rd Grade: Why it Matters

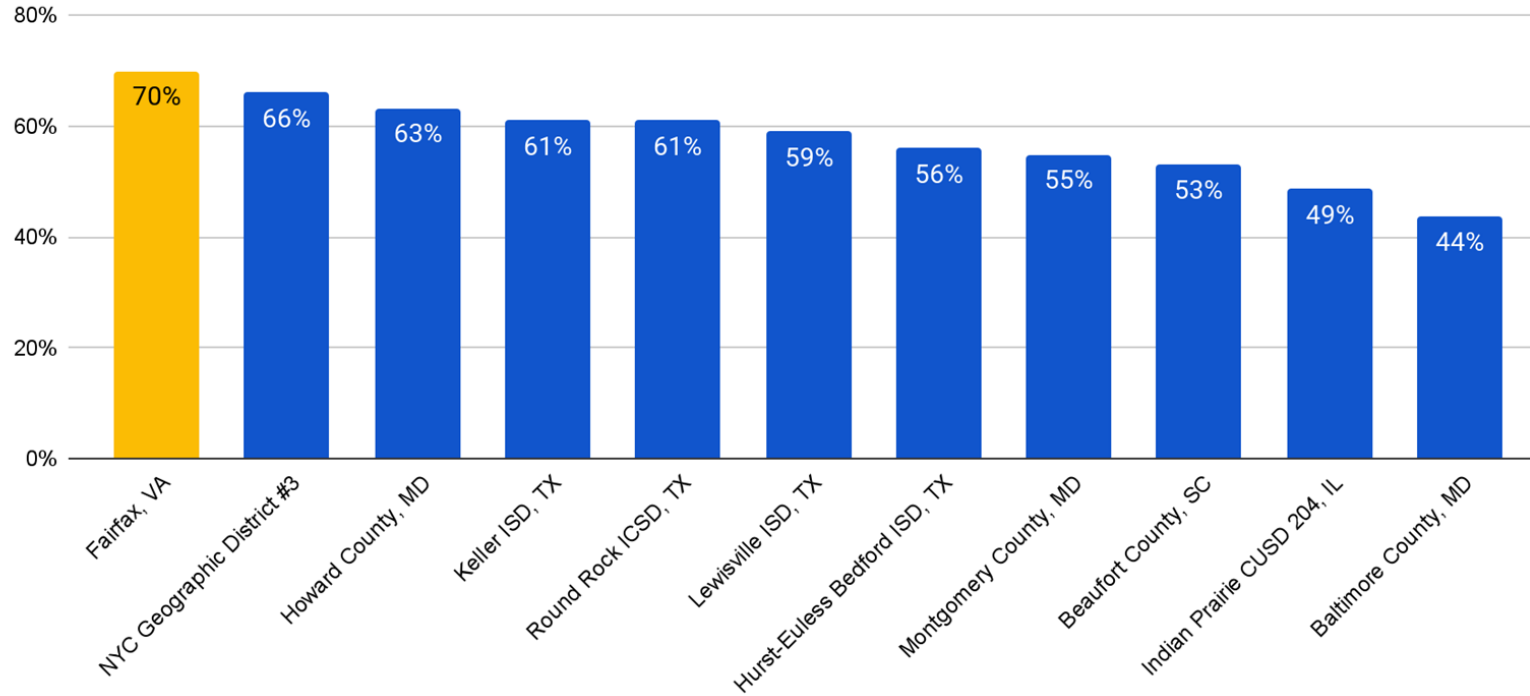
- By the end of 3rd grade, students begin moving away from “learning to read” to “reading to learn,” where reading becomes a tool to gain and apply knowledge in a range of subjects.
- Research has linked reading on grade level to:
 - Persistence into advanced coursework
 - On-time graduation
 - College enrollment
- Focusing on increasing reading by 3rd grade is expected to lead to improvement across other Strategic Plan Goals.

FCPS 3rd Grade Reading SOL Pass Rate Comparisons



Note: *Washington Area Boards of Education (WABE) districts in Virginia, including Alexandria City, Arlington County, Falls Church City, Loudoun County, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, and Prince William County. Data source is VDOE Build-A-Table. Virginia data includes Fairfax County. Percentages were rounded to the nearest whole number.

Pass Rates on 3rd Grade State Reading Assessments



Note: Data in chart reflects reporting on individual state report card websites.

Pass Rate on Grade 3 Reading SOL by Student Group

	All Students	Econ Dis	ML (1-4)	SWD	504 Plan	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Multiracial	White
Adjusted Baseline	69% 8,072 out of 11,765	41% 1,632 out of 3,956	34% 1,169 out of 3,480	44% 774 out of 1,752	80% 279 out of 350	81% 1,750 out of 2,164	61% 674 out of 1,106	41% 1,306 out of 3,187	82% 650 out of 791	82% 3,665 out of 4,471
SY 2023-24 Actual	70% 8,508 out of 12,217	44% 1,742 out of 3,970	33% 1,039 out of 3,140	46% 946 out of 2,060	82% 391 out of 479	83% 1,850 out of 2,222	59% 653 out of 1,106	43% 1,469 out of 3,429	85% 753 out of 881	83% 3,764 out of 4,531
Change	+1%	+3%	-1%	+2%	+2%	+2%	-2%	+2%	+3%	+1%
SY 2023-24 Target	73%	49%	43%	51%	82%	83%	66%	49%	84%	84%

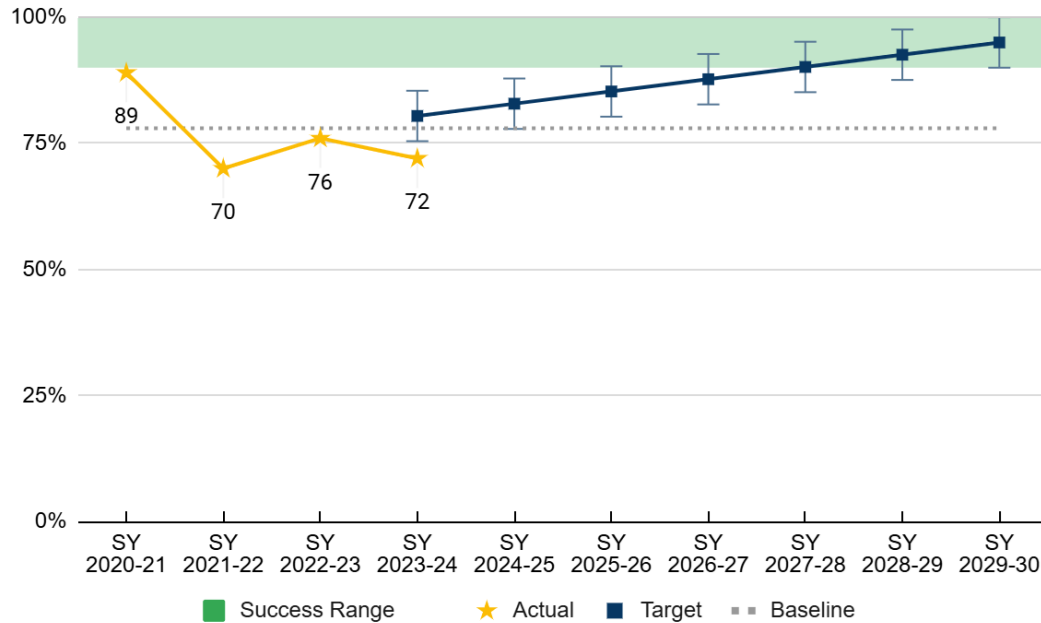
Pass Rate on the Grade 3 Reading SOL by Select Goal Priorities

SY 2023-24 Grade 3 Reading Pass Rates, by Chronic Absenteeism		
All Students	Not chronically absent	Chronically absent
70% 8,508 out of 12,217	71% 8,024 out of 11,251	50% 484 out of 966

SY 2023-24 Grade 3 Reading Pass Rates, by Pre-K Experience			
All Students	With Pre-K	Without Pre-K	Pre-K Unknown
70% 8,508 out of 12,217	74% 5,557 out of 7,461	52% 901 out of 1,727	68% 2,050 out of 3,029

Note: Information about student Pre-K experience is gathered as part of kindergarten registration. Students who registered after kindergarten show as “unknown” in this table.

Pass Rate on Grade 3 Reading VAAP



	All Students
Adjusted Baseline	78% 61 out of 79
SY 2023-24 Actual	72% 43 out of 60
Change	-6%
SY 2023-24 Target	83%

Progress Monitoring our Efforts in SY 2024-25

New Work

- Standardizing evidence-based literacy and ELD curriculum - newly adopted Basal Resources
- Assessing and responding to student literacy/risk - VALLSS screener
- Providing personalized support for students who face individual challenges - individual reading plans
- Quarterly division PD for Elementary Literacy Teams

Outcomes

- Results between fall and winter reading screeners show more than a 4% increase in the number of K-3 students approaching or meeting expectations.
- 3rd graders who demonstrate strong foundations of reading increased by 3.4 percentage points from fall to winter.
- 3rd graders mastering 3rd grade standards in reading increased by 8.4 percentage points from fall to winter.

To improve Reading by 3rd Grade, FCPS is currently focusing on strategies that:

- Standardize curriculum and instructional delivery to align with evidence-based practices (**Universal**)
- **Target supports for schools** with higher rates of struggling and at-risk students, and
- **Provide personalized support for students** who face individual challenges in reading by 3rd grade.



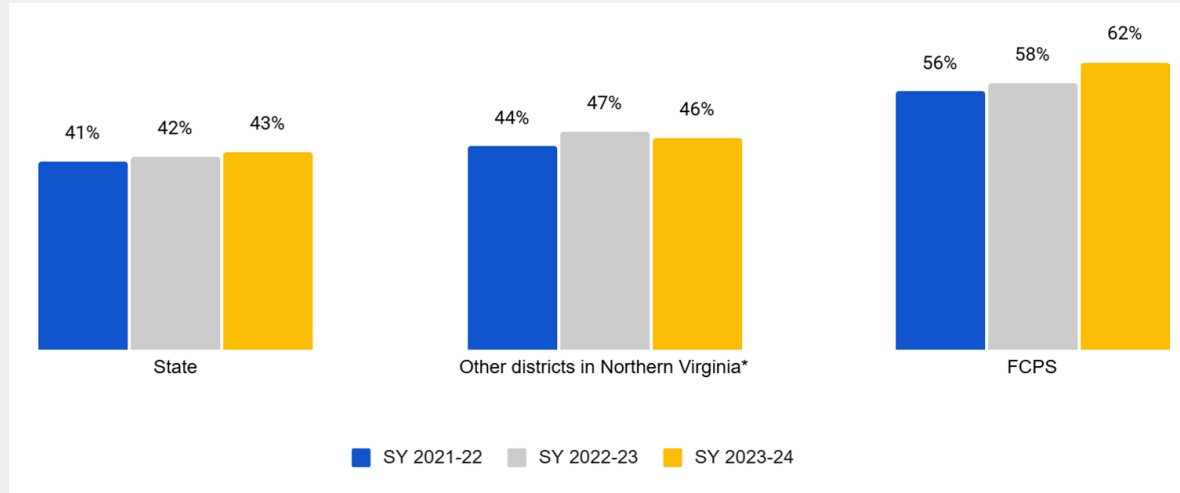
Algebra 1 by 8th Grade



Algebra 1 by 8th Grade: Why it Matters

- Middle school students who take Algebra 1 by 8th grade have greater access to higher level math and science courses in high school.
- National research has linked Algebra 1 in 8th grade to:
 - Persistence into advanced coursework
 - College enrollment
- Students with strong math skills who take Algebra 1 in middle school have:
 - Higher test scores in both math and language arts
 - Better attendance in middle school
- Focusing on increasing Algebra 1 by 8th grade is expected to lead to improvement across other Strategic Plan Goals.

FCPS has Higher Rates of 8th Graders Passing a High School Mathematics SOL



* Washington Area Boards of Education (WABE) in Virginia, including Alexandria City, Arlington County, Falls Church City, Loudoun County, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, and Prince William County

Note: This metric represents the percent of 8th graders who passed an Algebra 1 or 2 or Geometry SOL, out of all 8th graders taking a math SOL exam. This metric is used in lieu of FCPS' standard accountability measure because Virginia does not report the percent of students earning a verified credit in Algebra 1 by end of 8th grade.

Algebra 1 Verified Credit by 8th Grade by Student Group

	All Students	Econ Dis	ML	SWD	504 Plan	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Multiracial	White
Adjusted Baseline	51% 7,222 out of 14,025	28% 1,304 out of 4,642	7% 133 out of 1,971	15% 303 out of 2,050	52% 410 out of 784	73% 2,058 out of 2,826	38% 560 out of 1,458	27% 1,025 out of 3,854	61% 506 out of 830	61% 3,041 out of 4,995
SY 2023-24 Actual	59% 7,879 out of 13,292	37% 1,970 out of 5,267	11% 253 out of 2,296	22% 441 out of 1,983	64% 559 out of 872	79% 2,070 out of 2,622	48% 649 out of 1,353	33% 1,187 out of 3,634	72% 627 out of 869	69% 3,308 out of 4,764
Change	+8%	+9%	+4%	+7%	+12%	+6%	+10%	+6%	+11%	+8%
SY 2023-24 Target	57%	38%	20%	26%	58%	76%	46%	37%	66%	66%

To improve Algebra 1 by 8th Grade rates, FCPS is currently focused on strategies that:

- Prepare all students for Algebra 1 by Grade 8 and encouraging middle school enrollment in Algebra 1 (**Universal**)
- Provide opportunities for collaboration and learning for **identified schools**, and
- **Provide personalized support for students** who are underrepresented in Algebra 1.



Successful Completion of Advanced Coursework in High School



Advanced Coursework in HS: Why it Matters

- FCPS students can pursue a range of advanced courses while in high school, including college-level courses (Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Dual Enrollment (DE)), advanced courses that carry a 1.0 weight, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses that lead to a completter status.
- National research has linked completion of advanced coursework to:
 - On-time graduation
 - College enrollment and completion
 - Higher earnings
- Focusing on advanced coursework in high school is expected to lead to improvement across other Strategic Plan Goals.

Percent of students in the senior cohort who earned a C- or higher in at least one AP/IB/DE or other 1.0 weighted course and/or earned CTE completer status

	All Students	Econ Dis	ML (1-4)	SWD	504 Plan	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Multiracial	White
Adjusted Baseline	84% 11,710 out of 13,909	73% 2,846 out of 3,921	44% 482 out of 1,105	52% 951 out of 1,823	89% 923 out of 1,035	92% 2,805 out of 3,048	78% 1,143 out of 1,456	72% 2,289 out of 3,196	87% 654 out of 755	88% 4,783 out of 5,411
SY 2023-24 Actual	85% 11,968 out of 14,071	75% 3,637 out of 4,819	51% 657 out of 1,288	53% 956 out of 1,802	90% 1,101 out of 1,222	94% 2,828 out of 3,005	79% 1,166 out of 1,477	73% 2,554 out of 3,499	90% 729 out of 812	89% 4,642 out of 5,218
Change	+1%	+2%	+7%	+1%	+1%	+2%	+1%	+1%	+3%	+1%
SY 2023-24 Target	86%	76%	51%	58%	90%	92%	80%	75%	88%	89%

To improve completion of advanced coursework in HS, FCPS is currently focused on strategies that:

- Increase overall availability and variety of advanced courses offered, preparation, and intentional planning for enrollment (**Universal**),
- **Target efforts at schools** with low completion rates for advanced courses, and
- **Support underrepresented students** in seeking out and completing advanced coursework prior to graduation.



Key Takeaways

- **Reading by 3rd grade**

- In SY 2023-24, 70% of 3rd graders passed Grade 3 Reading SOL exam (+1 percentage point from baseline).
- To continue improving, FCPS is standardizing evidence-based literacy curriculum, assessing and responding to student risk, and providing support to students who face individual challenges.

- **Algebra 1 by 8th grade**

- In SY 2023-24, 59% of 8th graders earned a verified credit in Algebra 1 (+8 percentage points from baseline).
- To continue improving, FCPS is revising the K-7 mathematics curriculum and standard pathway, and educating and increasing utilization of open enrollment.

- **Successful completion of advanced coursework in high school**

- 85% of high school graduates completed advanced courses (+1 percentage point from baseline).
- To continue improving, FCPS is increasing availability and variety of courses offered, preparation, and planning for enrollment; and supporting students in seeking out and completing advanced coursework.



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