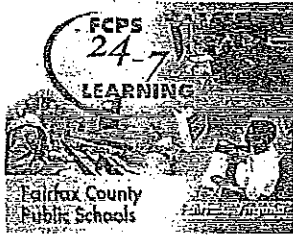


Blackboard and Family Connection



Family CONNECTION

Blackboard (FCPS 24-7 Learning) is an online learning resource for Fairfax County Public Schools students, staff, and parents. Teachers can post a course syllabus and homework assignments (and much more) on Blackboard, which students and parents can access through any internet connection at any time of the day or night. Every FCPS student and teacher has a Blackboard account; and parents of FCPS students can register for parent accounts that allow them to view their students' Blackboard and Family Connection information.

Family Connection is an online college and career planning resource that students and parents can access through the student's Blackboard account. In Family Connection students can research colleges and careers, complete personality and career inventories, and search for scholarships in a database that is updated regularly for FCPS students.

For Parent Access:



Go to the FCPS website at www.fcps.edu

From the left menu on the home page, select FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard). Then on the next page click the link Resources for Parents and follow the directions for Creating a New Account.

It's a good idea to print out the directions for Creating a New Parent View Account and First Time Log On, since you will need to refer to them several times during the registration process.

You will register online by providing your name, address, and email address—and your student's name and FCPS ID number. As soon as you have submitted this information you will receive your registration confirmation, which includes a unique key. To complete the registration process, you take your unique key and photo ID to your student's school for validation. Then you will receive in your email your permanent username and a temporary password that you will change the first time you log on to your new Blackboard Parent View account.

Once you log on to your Blackboard account, you will be able to view all of your student's courses and access your student's Family Connection account.



FamilyCONNECTION

From your Blackboard account select the blue **Family Connection** icon to enter your student's Family Connection account. You will see several tabs across the top of the home page. Select a tab to view more information.

About Me Tab

Student contact information and GPA are included in the profile.
SAT and ACT test scores are posted.
You can also view saved results of goal planning and inventories.

Careers Tab

Explore and research careers, including required skills and education.
View saved results of a career interest inventory.
Match inventory results with career options.

Colleges Tab

Explore and research colleges and majors.
View and compare college acceptance information.
View the schedule of colleges planning to visit your school.
Use the **scholarship list** to search for scholarships.

Scholarship List

This is a searchable database in the colleges tab--updated regularly by FCPS.

You can sort by deadline, or view scholarships in alphabetical order.
You can search for scholarships by grade level or major.
Select the scholarship you want to learn about and you'll see:

- A summary page with deadline, criteria, and award amount
- A link to more information about the organization
- A link to the scholarship application itself

Scholarship deadlines are firm. Please be aware that many scholarship applications require additional documents to be considered complete. Official transcripts, teacher or counselor recommendations, financial aid statements, and student resumes are some commonly requested documents. Although scholarship applications can frequently be submitted online, students may also have to provide supporting documents by mail. And even if the application is online, all scholarship essays should first be written in a Word document, printed out, and edited before being copied and pasted into the online application form.

Assistance with the financial aid process is available from www.collegeaccessfairfax.org.

College Access Fairfax