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Family of Fairfax teen suicide victim wants changes in school disciplinary policies

By [Donna St. George](#)
Washington Post Staff Writer
Monday, February 21, 2011; 10:14 PM

The family of a [Fairfax teenager who took his life](#) as he struggled with the fallout of a high school suspension called for changes in the county's disciplinary policies, in a letter sent Monday to school and county officials.

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Nick Stuban was a football player at W.T. Woodson High School whose story brought to light a discipline system that many Fairfax families call too lengthy, too rigid and too hostile.

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The [six-page letter](#), which came a month after the suicide of Nick Stuban, 15, a football player from W.T. Woodson High School, asked for an end to punitive school transfers, a more compassionate hearing process and punishments that are "proportionate to the nature of the alleged infractions."

It was e-mailed to [Fairfax Superintendent Jack D. Dale](#), copied to members of the School Board and Board of Supervisors and sent by the Rutherford Institute, a nonprofit legal advocacy organization that is representing the Stuban family.

The letter called Fairfax's hearing process harsh and "unconscionable" and lacking in due-process protections.

Dale [responded to the letter with an e-mail](#) that cited efforts to review the school system's Student Responsibilities and Rights handbook. "I want to assure

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