

**MSAOC**  
**2009 Narrative to Recommendations**

Thank you for your very comprehensive annual report on June 1, 2009 to the School Board. Your recognition of the work at many of our schools on closing the achievement gap is noted and appreciated. Our school division remains committed to closing the achievement gap and providing opportunities and access for all students including students of minority backgrounds. We are proud of our progress but recognize that there is still much work to be done. We also recognize that this work will need to be in collaboration with schools, clusters, parents, social services, and the community. We have had time to reflect on your report and respond accordingly:

- Closing the Achievement Gap remains the utmost priority and focus for FCPS. The language in Student Achievement Goal 1 was recently amended to reinforce this commitment. In addition, the Instructional Services Department has drafted a very comprehensive framework for action to close remaining gaps in academic achievement of minority students and other subgroups. The framework focuses attention to the areas of content, pedagogy, and relationships in effectively closing achievement gaps.
- The primary goal for the 2008-09 school year was to increase access and representation of under-represented students in AP courses. This will remain a focus and goal for the 2009–2010 school year. We will continue to provide professional development for all of our schools to use AP Potential (a tool from the College Board) to identify minority students who have potential for success in AP courses. Twenty high schools received student achievement grants to support minority students in advanced academic courses; programs include mentoring, summer boot camps, study sessions, and online support. Academic progress in the core disciplines will be measured to ensure that all students, regardless of race, poverty, language or disability, will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary for college and/or employment, effectively eliminating achievement gaps.
- The school division will review and actively seek funding in 2010 for the Advocacy Handbook for Parents. Parent education and advocacy is of utmost importance to us.
- FCPS is committed to ensuring that programs that support college readiness and success continue. The consolidation of programs such as AVID, College Partnership Program, Early Identification Program, and Pathways to the Baccalaureate will focus on maintaining and increasing student enrollment with high quality services.
- Increasing Black and Hispanic admissions to TJHSST continues to be a goal in FCPS. Review of the admissions process is continual and ongoing. An advisory committee was formed in 2009 to review the freshman admissions process for the Thomas Jefferson School for Science and Technology that was implemented in 2004. The TJ Admission Office does considerable outreach to students, including school visits, presentations to community groups, and dissemination of materials and other resources through print and

online sources. Plans are being explored by the TJHSST community as well to target outreach efforts to schools that do not traditionally send many students to Jefferson.

Again your work on keeping minority student achievement at the forefront in Fairfax County Public is valued. We look forward to our continued work in the upcoming school year on behalf minority students in Fairfax County Public Schools.