

# Fairfax County Public Schools

## Fairfax, Virginia

**Location type:** Large suburb

**District enrollment:** 186,714 students

**Percentage of students in district eligible for free and reduced price meals:** 28.2

### Key Takeaways

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) was a participant in both the 2012 pilot and 2013-2014 administration of the OECD Test for Schools. Its results provided great insight regarding the extent to which the district was preparing its students for success in a global economy. In response to its results, the district took action to ensure that educators and administrators were equipped to support students in developing deeper learning skills such as problem solving and critical thinking.

### Actions Taken

- ✓ After receiving its pilot results, FCPS hosted a meeting for participating schools where leaders discussed the value of the assessment, reviewed the data to identify trends surprises, and developed next steps.
  - ✓ Once the district received its 2013-2014 results, it hosted an OECD Test for Schools workshop in September 2014 that brought school and district leaders together to engage in discussions around the assessment and the types of questions used, identifying strategies to understand the results, and determine next steps and plans for translating results into practice.
  - ✓ The district also hosted an all-county principals meeting in March 2014 to discuss the assessment and how the results can support schools in their improvement efforts.
  - ✓ Administrators use sample questions to support teachers in designing questions and thinking about how to assess the application of knowledge.
- ✓ FCPS also sent representatives to the Global Learning Network's Convening of World-Leading Schools, and conversations continue to take place during principal meetings regarding key findings and instructional changes made based on results.

*Those wishing to learn more about the practices at Fairfax County Public Schools may visit the district's website [here](#).*