

[Date]

Dr. Jack D. Dale, Superintendent  
Fairfax County Public Schools  
8115 Gatehouse Road  
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

**Re: Fairfax County Public Schools Disciplinary Process With Respect To  
My Child, John Smith, FCPS ID # 1234567**

Dear Dr. Dale:

As the parent of an FCPS student, I am deeply concerned about the apparent deficiencies in our schools' disciplinary process. The tragic deaths of Nick Stuban and Josh Anderson following FCPS disciplinary hearings have caused my family to lose confidence in the administration's competency in dealing with student discipline issues.

While I am hopeful that these recent events will prompt the Board to begin an immediate, thorough overhaul of its policies and procedures, at this time I am writing to revoke any and all authority—express or implied—of school administrators and staff to question or otherwise engage in disciplinary measures against my child in my absence. In the event that my child should require questioning related to any suspected infraction of school policy, I hereby demand that I be contacted immediately and permitted to be present at all times during such questioning or other disciplinary proceedings.

Because school administrators act as representatives of the state rather than parental surrogates when they engage in disciplinary functions, I insist that my child be afforded the full panoply of due process protections available under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.<sup>1</sup> I believe that just as parents have a duty under Virginia law to participate in their children's education, so the administration has a corresponding duty to allow such participation.

Moreover, pursuant to VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-279.3, I hereby express my disagreement with the disciplinary policies and decisions of FCPS. Specifically, I object to the lack of actual due process protections for students, the punitive and demeaning nature of the hearing processes, and the lack of proportionality of punishment to the alleged policy violations.

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<sup>1</sup> See *N. J. v. T.L.O.*, 469 U.S. 325, 336 (

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Thank you in advance for respecting my choice to fully participate in any decision that could adversely affect the educational opportunity and emotional health of my child. I look forward to the day when the inherent fairness, reasonableness, and compassionate implementation of FCPS's disciplinary systems and policies may warrant my placement of a greater level of trust in school administrators.

If you have any questions regarding this request or if you would like assistance in making appropriate amendments to FCPS policies and procedures, please contact The Rutherford Institute.

Sincerely yours,

[Name]  
[Address 1]  
[Address 2]

cc: [School Principal]