



BACK TO SCHOOL FORUM: What's Up With the Wake County Public Schools?

Monday, August 16th, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
YWCA of the Greater Triangle
554 East Hargett St., Raleigh

What You Need to Know About...

Student Assignment

Chuck Dulaney, Former Assistant Superintendent of Growth & Planning, WCPSS

Your Students' Legal Rights

Jason Langberg, Advocates for Children's Services/NC Legal Aid

Your Students' Educational Rights

Charlotte Turpin, Former WCPSS Teacher & President, Harriet B. Webster Task Force on Student Success

- ❖ Why have students in the Wake Co. Public Schools experienced so many **reassignments** in the past 10 years?
- ❖ What rights does my student have if he/she is disciplined at school? What if my child gets suspended from school?
- ❖ What is a PEP? What is an IEP? What can I do to make sure my student has an educational plan that identifies his/her needs and keeps him/her on track for success?

Please join the discussion...get answers to these questions and more!

*To learn more about us, please visit www.greatschoolsinline.org
Great Schools in Wake Coalition is a special project of WakeUP Wake County*

Mission

To provide accurate information to educate the public about policy initiatives that would impact the quality of education, to foster well in-formed discussions about critical education issues, and to advocate for policies that improve public education in Wake County.



We support high quality schools for all children in Wake County.

Our vision: We believe that all children in Wake County, regardless of income, race, ethnicity or residence, should receive the highest quality education possible.

Research shows high poverty schools have higher teacher turnover, higher principal turnover, lower student achievement, and higher costs. That's why we **advocate for high quality education** for all students.

WCPSS at a Glance

- Enrollment 2009-2010 -- 139,599 students
- 18th largest school district in the nation, largest in North Carolina
- 156 schools, including 51 year round schools (42 elementary and 9 middle)

Growth Drives Assignment: between 2000 and 2010....

- 48 new schools (29 elementary, 9 middle, 9 high and 1 special/optional)
- 48,000 new seats added, with 46,000 students reassigned
- 50,000 more students in WCPSS

Fast Facts about Wake County

- At 3.47 percent in 2008-09, WCPSS schools had the lowest dropout rate in six years, a rate lower than Charlotte/Mecklenburg and than the state average. The drop out rate declined for students of every race and ethnicity, with the largest improvements among Hispanic, African-American, and multi-racial students.
- The dropout rate for black students is the lowest since 2003-04, and for white and multi-racial students it's the lowest since before 1999-2000.
- Busing is a smokescreen to mask the real issues – bus rides in zones in Charlotte are longer than the bus rides in Wake County, and Mecklenburg is a smaller county.
- The average bus ride in Wake County is 20 minutes.
- Only 3 percent of our students are bused for diversity.
- The average Wake County student spends less time on a bus than the average North Carolina student.
- If there were no growth there would be no reassignment.

Current Direction of the School Board...

- leads to more reassignments, more instability, more chaos
- harms national reputation of Wake County as having a high quality of life
- creates overcrowded schools
- creates high poverty (80 to 90 percent poverty) schools
- denies research that shows student achievement declines in high poverty schools