

WAKE COUNTY

P U B L I C S C H O O L S Y S T E M

SEPTEMBER 2002

Raleigh, North Carolina

Recognizing Success

Students Recognized

Wake County students took top prizes in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Egg Drop held at N.C. State University. Tate Rogers of Southeast Raleigh High finished second in the competition, and Josh and Paul Saville of East Garner Middle earned third place. Rogers earned a \$300 prize and the Savilles split \$75. The students were among 145 who designed devices that protected an egg from breaking after being dropped from a height of up to 32 feet.

Southeast Raleigh High Senior Josh Heffner won the first Research Triangle Brain Bee and represented Wake County Schools in the International Brain Bee competition at the University of Maryland. The International Brain Bee is a live question and answer competition sponsored by the Society for Neuroscience which quizzes contestants about the brain and how it relates to intelligence, memory, emotions, and other aspects of human health.

Enloe High School's Eagle Productions brought home the prestigious Emmy Award from the 16th Annual Mid-South Regional Emmy Awards, their third in five years. Enloe senior Ryan Gurlinger and junior James Mundia were nominated in the Student Production Category for a three-minute, high-energy highlight montage of Enloe's 2000 Winter Sports Season, which was broadcast on Enloe's daily live TV program, "The 'Loe Down." This is the eighth Regional Emmy nomination in five years for Enloe's Eagle Productions. The program has now won three times in the Student Production Category.

Three Wake County Schools finished in the top 10 in the 17th AMC 8 competition. Martin Middle finished first, Ligon Middle fifth, and Leesville Road Middle seventh in the math exam for middle school students. There were 88 North Carolina schools and 9,000 students participating. Yang Zhou, a Martin Middle eighth grader, was one of 84 students in the country to make a perfect score. Victor Lee of Lufkin Road Middle had the top score for sixth-graders in North Carolina.

Sixth-graders on Carnegie's Quiz Bowl Team just competed in two quiz bowl contests and did extremely well. In the winter contest for Knowledge Master Open, an international competition, Carnegie ranked third of the almost 400 teams competing, and first in North

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Student Achievement

EOG – 2001-2002

Wake County students continued to improve their results on the N.C. End-of-Grade (EOG) tests with the highest number of students scoring at or above grade level ever achieved locally.

In reading, the percentage of students who scored Levels III or IV rose from 86 percent in 2001 to 88 percent in 2002, and the achievement gap narrowed as the percentage for African American students rose from 67 percent to 72 percent, and the percentage for Latino students rose from 72 to 74 percent. The percentage for white students rose from 94 to 95 percent.

In math, the percentage of Wake students who scored at Levels III or IV rose from 89 percent in 2001 to 91 percent in 2002, and the achievement gap narrowed as the percentage for African American students rose from 71 to 77 percent, and the percentage for Latino students rose from 79 to 83 percent. The percentage for white students rose from 96 to 97.

EOG tests are a key component to calculating each local school's overall performance in The ABCs of Public Education, the statewide school

accountability program. Those results are expected to be released in September. EOG results are also the measure tied to the Wake County Board of Education's goal of raising student achievement to 95 percent at grade level by 2003.

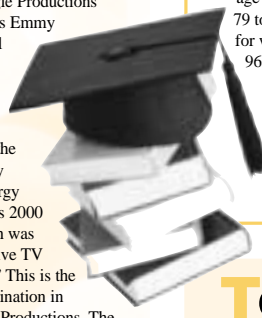
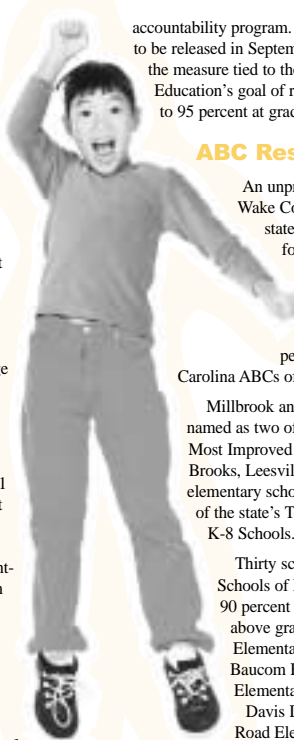
ABC Results

An unprecedented number of Wake County schools earned the state's highest honors for growth in student achievement in 2000-2001. Six Wake County schools have been recognized for performance in the North Carolina ABCs of Public Education.

Millbrook and Green Hope High were named as two of North Carolina's Top 10 Most Improved High Schools. Brassfield, Brooks, Leesville, and Middle Creek elementary schools were named as four of the state's Top 25 Most Improved K-8 Schools.

Thirty schools were designated as Schools of Excellence, meaning that 90 percent of students scored at or above grade level: Adams Elementary, Apex Elementary, Baucom Elementary, Brassfield Elementary, Combs Elementary, Davis Drive Elementary, Durant Road Elementary, Green Elementary, Green Hope Elementary,

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Teacher Quality

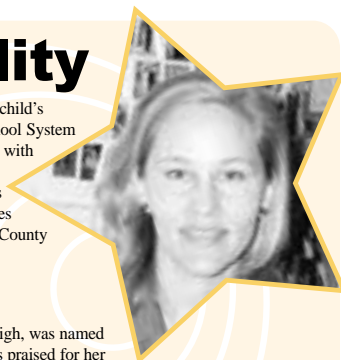
Research shows that the single most important factor in a child's education is the child's teacher. The Wake County Public School System is committed to providing every student in our school system with a quality teacher. Over the past few years, the school system has launched a bold effort to recruit and hire the best teachers and ensure that they remain in our schools. WCPSS recognizes the indispensable role these teachers play in providing Wake County students with the best education possible.

Teacher of the Year

Sofi Frankowski, a history teacher at Southeast Raleigh High, was named Wake County's 2002 Teacher of the Year. Frankowski, who is praised for her vigor, flair for teaching, and the inspiration she imparts, said she teaches because it allows her to work for the change she wants to see in the world.

A National Board certified teacher, Frankowski has taught at Southeast Raleigh High for two of her 10 years as a teacher. While working as a history teacher in California, she created and developed Leadership MOSAIC (Making Our School An Inclusive Community). Her efforts were recognized by the President's Initiative on Race as one of the nation's Promising Practices. Now, Frankowski teaches the class at Southeast Raleigh High. This past year, the student-led class organized a school lock-in devoted to learning about other cultures, a forum about the Islamic religion, and an afternoon of festivities for the entire school to become more aware of their outside world.

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Superintendent's Message

William R. McNeal

Solutions

When a child is bent over her desk, tapping her pencil's eraser against her cheek as she rereads a word problem in math class, she is searching for a solution. When a child stands at an easel, brush in hand, trying to translate his inspiration onto paint on canvas, he is searching for a solution.

When we, the communities and families of Wake County, look at the phenomenal academic growth in our schools...

...and reaffirm our obligation to help those children who are still struggling while continuing to challenge our advanced students, all with finite resources...

...then all of us in Wake County must be actively engaged in the search for a solution as well.

Many of the pieces of the solution are already in place — and this Annual Report will highlight them. Here you will learn about innovative steps we've taken to boost student achievement, and the wonderful results we've achieved through the efforts of teachers, students, parents, and our community working together. We're also able to tell you about some of the scores of students, schools, educators, and staff that were recognized for their successes last year.

The story of the Wake County Public School

System in 2001-2002 is one of significant progress toward the defining goal of our 25-year history: helping an unprecedented 95 percent of our children reach grade level.

Limited resources, especially in the context of our state's post-September 11 economic slowdown, mean that we may not have the needed class size reduction, remediation, and teacher recruitment/retention initiatives in place for us to reach the 95 percent goal by the original target date of 2003. But the pursuit of that bold goal has lifted our children to heights unimaginable even in 1998 when the goal was adopted.

The Wake County Public School System has many friends and loving critics who have stood beside us in our quest for excellence. We owe special thanks to the Wake Education Partnership for spearheading the county-wide Voices and Choices initiative to identify our post-Goal 2003 direction; to the tireless efforts of the Wake County PTA Council; to the local education foundations; and to our business partners in the county Chambers of Commerce, the Business Education Leadership Council, and School-to-Career. In a tight year, the Wake County Commissioners have seen to it that our schools' local funding will maintain the progress made in 2001-2002, for which we are deeply grateful. Most of all, we thank the parents of our more than 100,000 students — the parents who read to their

kindergartners, help their sixth-graders with homework, and ferry their ninth-graders to and from extracurricular activities.

These partnerships will become essential as we reach a new turning point for Wake County schools. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2002, signed by President Bush in January, will have a seismic effect on all the nation's school districts, Wake County included. No Child Left Behind expects us to accelerate the progress we have made since 1998, toward an ultimate goal of 100 percent of our children at grade level by 2012.

That's an incredibly high bar. How will we clear it? The solution is out there; we have the right people, inside Wake County's schools and outside, to find it. Our successes in 2001-2002 bear witness that dramatically boosting student achievement can be done. If we work together, the solution will come, and again Wake County's schools and citizens will be recognized as trailblazers.

Most importantly, no child in Wake County will be left behind. Let us commit ourselves to that future; our children deserve no less.

Bill McNeal,
Superintendent

Board of Education



Kathryn Watson Quigg
Chair



Susan Parry
Vice-chair



Beverly Clark



Bill Fletcher



Patti Head



Rosa Gill



Tom Oxholm



Amy White



Jeffrey York



Bill McNeal
Superintendent

Student Achievement *(continued from page 1)*

Jones Dairy Elementary, Kingswood Elementary, Leesville Elementary, Morrisville Elementary, North Ridge Elementary, Northwoods Elementary, Oak Grove Elementary, Olive Chapel Elementary, Pleasant Union Elementary, Salem Elementary, Timber Drive Elementary, Weatherstone Elementary, West Lake Elementary, Apex Middle, Davis Drive Middle, Durant Road Middle, Leesville Middle, Ligon Middle, Lufkin Road Middle, West Cary Middle, and West Lake Middle.



Fifty-three schools were designated as Schools of Distinction, where 80-90 percent of students scored at or above grade level: Baileywick Elementary, Briarcliff Elementary, Brooks Elementary, Bugg Elementary, Carver Elementary, Creech Road Elementary, Dillard Drive Elementary, Douglas Elementary, Farmington Woods Elementary, Fox Road Elementary, Fuquay Varina Elementary, Hilburn Drive Elementary, Holly Springs Elementary, Hunter Elementary, Jeffreys Grove Elementary, Joyner Elementary, Lacy Elementary, Leadmine Elementary, Lincoln Heights Elementary, Lockhart Elementary, Lynn Road Elementary, Middle Creek Elementary, Olds Elementary, Partnership Elementary, Penny Road Elementary, Poe Elementary, Reedy Creek Elementary, Root Elementary, Stough Elementary, Vance Elementary, Vandora Springs Elementary, Wake Forest Elementary, Wakefield Elementary, Washington Elementary, Wilburn Elementary, Wildwood Forest Elementary, Willow Springs Elementary, Yates Mill Elementary, York Elementary, Carnage Middle, Carrol Middle, Centennial Campus Middle, Daniels Middle, Dillard Drive Middle, East Cary Middle, Fuquay Varina Middle, Martin Middle, Wake Forest-Rolesville Middle, Wakefield Middle, West Millbrook Middle, Green Hope High, Leesville Road High, and Wakefield High.



2002 WCPSS Valedictorians

- Apex High, **Courtney Enlow**
- Athens Drive High, **Mahir Haroon Rabbi**
- Broughton High, **Gina Diep Nguyen**
- Cary High, **Kaitlyn Marie Bailey**
- East Wake High, **Armando DeJesus Contreras**
- Enloe High, **Ayan Chatterjee**
- Fuquay-Varina High, **Barry L. Schmidt**
- Garner High, **Ryan Matthew Phillips**
- Green Hope High, **Christine Bosman**
- Leesville Road High, **Nan Gao**
- Millbrook High, **Sarah Jean Moore**
- Sanderson High, **Melissa Anne Keever**
- Southeast Raleigh High, **Aidin Fathalizadeh**
- Wake Forest-Rolesville High, **Joshua A. Hemphill**
- Wakefield High, **Kyle Clark**

SAT Scores – 2000-2001

School	Participation Rate	Verbal	Math	Total
USA	45%	506	514	1020
NC	65 %	493	499	992
Wake	78.6%	520	534	1054
Apex	83.7%	536	558	1094
Athens	80.7%	520	556	1076
Broughton	88.8%	526	545	1071
Cary	80.3%	525	539	1064
East Wake	75.5%	470	485	955
Enloe	90.2%	573	575	1148
Fuquay	67.8%	474	499	973
Garner	49.7%	476	494	970
Leesville	87.3%	525	541	1066
Millbrook	78.4%	495	506	1001
Sanderson	82.2%	522	535	1057
SE Raleigh	83.8%	523	523	1046

Building for Tomorrow

PLAN 2000

In November 2000, Wake County citizens showed their overwhelming support for the children of this community by approving \$550 million in funding for the PLAN 2000 building program. The three-and-a-half year plan includes constructing 14 new schools, and renovating 96 existing campuses.

Now at the midpoint of the building program, WCPSS has acquired land for 13 of the 14 new schools and has already built four of them. Of the major improvement projects, two are complete, 18 are under construction and 12 are in the design phase. In addition, WCPSS has completed 19 system-wide projects and another 24 are currently in progress.

New Schools Open in 2002-2003

Ballentine Elementary, the first PLAN 2000 school, opened this fall in Fuquay-Varina. Designed for 601 students, the two-story, 84,178-square foot building is the same design as Holly Ridge Elementary, which began this school year with Apex Elementary students. Ballentine has a removable partition between the multi-purpose room and dining facility that may be opened up to hold the entire student body and parents for special programs. There is a patio off the art room to allow classes to complete outdoor projects. Wake County Parks and Recreation contributed funding toward the Ballentine project for extra ball fields, which will be added later in the year.



Ballentine Elementary

Moore Square Museums Magnet Middle, located in the heart of downtown Raleigh, has special partnerships with area museums to enhance students' curricula and opportunities. The three-story, 123,000-square foot campus will serve approximately 660 students. A unique learning tower extends from the first floor lobby to the second floor, allowing students throughout the building to view educational videos displayed on its circular walls. Moore Square also has a small amphitheater for outdoor programs and events.



Moore Square Museums Magnet Middle

Middle Creek High opened with its own students this fall after housing Athens Drive students last year. The new three-story, 293,591-square foot high school is from the same prototype design as Green Hope and Wakefield and will serve 1,628 students. A commons area, located off the dining area, media center, auditorium, and gym, is an ideal space for handling overflow crowds during large school functions. Middle Creek High represents a collaborative effort between WCPSS, the Town of Cary and Wake County Government to build a community center, additional ball fields and tennis courts that are above the district's standard high school program.



Middle Creek High

Looking Ahead

Although PLAN 2000 will help ease overcrowding, make long-overdue repairs to aging facilities and foster a learning environment conducive for achievement, an additional 3,500 to 4,000 students enroll in our schools each year. And, with the Wake County Planning Department projecting that the school system's enrollment will increase from 101,397 students to over 131,000 in 2010 and to more than 160,000 in 2020, the need for additional schools will continue.

To prepare for this continued growth, WCPSS has started planning for a June or November 2003 bond referendum. Facilities staff will review school needs with stakeholders over this summer and fall. Needs will be presented to the Board of Education in December 2002 and to the county commissioners in January 2003. The new building program scope will be presented to both boards in March 2003.

Opening Fall 2002

Ballentine Elementary
Heritage Elementary
Holly Ridge Elementary *
Holly Ridge Middle *
Moore Square Museums Middle
Reedy Creek Middle *
Middle Creek High

Opening Fall 2003

Cedar Fork Elementary *
Salem Middle *

Opening Fall 2004

Carpenter Village Elementary
Forestville Road Elementary
Highcroft Drive Elementary
Turner Creek Road Elementary
Heritage Middle
Special/Optional Middle
Knightdale High

Heritage Elementary will open in January 2003 with Jones Dairy Elementary students.

** Dates reflect the year schools will be complete. These schools will serve as "swing space" – meaning they will house students from other schools during major renovations before opening with their own students.*

Please visit www.wcpss.net/auxiliary-services for additional information.

Teacher Quality (continued from page 1)

National Board Certification

The 121 Wake County teachers who earned certification from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards in 2001 helped bring Wake County's total number of National Board certified teachers to 336. The Wake County Public School System continues to be a national leader in the number of certified teachers.



The certification process is the most accepted symbol of teaching excellence in the U.S. This past year, the Wake County Board of Education approved a one time \$500 bonus to National Board certified teachers. The school system encourages National Board certified teachers to serve as coaches for teachers seeking certification. Coaches are paid an honorarium. The school system sends some Wake County teachers to the annual conference of National Board certified teachers. While the state provides assistance for state-funded teachers towards the \$2,300 application fee, Wake County provides local assistance for locally- and federally-funded teachers in Wake County.

For a list of the 121 teachers who earned certification in 2001, visit our web site at www.wcpss.net/news/2001_nat_board_teachers/.

Teacher Quality Initiative

Teachers Given a Say Through New Advisory Council - Wake County School Superintendent Bill McNeal created a Teacher Advisory Council during the 2001-2002 school year to help the school system identify and address issues that will enable teachers to be more effective in the classroom. The Teacher Advisory Council was formed as part of McNeal's Teacher Quality Initiative, which he launched in 2000-2001 to give teachers the respect they deserve, while taking steps to ensure teacher quality and improve teacher recruitment and retention.

The Teacher Advisory Council, whose mission is to "be change agents for effective schools," met throughout the year to discuss improving communication throughout the system; redesigning the evaluation mechanism for school community feedback regarding school climate and leadership issues; restructuring the school day to give teachers more time for planning, teaming and networking; and identifying methods of reducing redundant and unnecessary classroom level paperwork. In June, the Board of Education endorsed the council's recommendations for restructuring the school day and reducing the amount of paperwork.

New Hiring Initiatives Improve System's Ability to Recruit and Retain Teachers - The Board of Education approved a \$1.3 million plan for improving the school system's ability to recruit and retain teachers at the beginning of the 2001-2002 school year. The plan was included in the budget agreement reached between the school board and county commissioners in June 2001.

The plan included:

- \$1,000 signing bonuses for 200 certified teachers in the hard-to-fill areas of science, math and special education.
- Providing release time for 2nd and 3rd year teachers to complete their portfolios. Release time also was provided for their mentors.
- Reimbursing the cost of first-time PRAXIS teaching licensure exams through Dec 1, 2001.
- Providing free PRAXIS preparation seminars to assist new teachers in meeting state licensing requirements.
- Increasing reimbursement of tuition for lateral-entry and provisional teachers for courses required for licensure.
- Offering a one-time \$500 bonus to nationally board certified teachers.
- Coordinating training and providing limited fee assistance to encourage teachers to become nationally board certified.
- Providing free tuition to attend Wake schools for children of employees who live outside the county.



Principal of the Year

Combs Elementary Principal Muriel Summers was named Wake County's 2001 Principal of the Year. Combs Elementary is a Leadership Development magnet school. Under Summers' leadership, Combs has been named a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, earned a National Magnet School of Merit Award, a North Carolina Governor's Entrepreneurial Award, and been named a North Carolina School of Distinction.

Principal at Combs since 1997, Summers said her leadership style is based on the principles of enabling others to act, inspiring a shared vision, modeling the way, challenging the process, and encouraging the heart.



Assistant Principal of the Year

Leesville Road Elementary Assistant Principal James Overman was named Wake County's 2001 Assistant Principal of the Year.

Overman sponsored a technology club at the school, and spearheaded the school's morning in-house news program, directing and training the students to run the show. By reaching out to industry and the community, he found tutors and mentors to help students. He also worked to involve parents in the activities of the school. He set up lunches for students and parents in parks near their homes and held community meetings with parents.

In June, the Board of Education named Overman principal of Creech Road Elementary.

2001-2002 Highlights

Superintendent McNeal Challenges Educators to Close the Achievement Gap

Wake County Superintendent Bill McNeal challenged Wake County principals and administrators to boost student performance and reach Goal 2003 by closing the achievement gap during the Team Leadership Conference held at the beginning of the 2001-2002 school year. McNeal told the educators they must inspire teachers and involve parents and the community, tapping every resource to help children succeed and reach Goal 2003.



Bus Drivers Equipped with Phones to Enhance Bus Safety

All bus drivers for the Wake County Public School System were equipped with Nextel phones at the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year. The phones allowed contact between the supervisors and the bus drivers at all times and provided the drivers with a direct link to 911 in case of an emergency.

Project Achieve Helps Schools Close the Achievement Gap, Raise Performance

Eight Wake County Schools took part in Project Achieve, a new effort this past school year to help schools close the achievement gap and raise performance for all students. In the Project Achieve schools, teachers of math and reading /language arts delivered focus lessons each day with periodic assessment. Students who did not master the objectives received immediate remediation, while those who mastered the objectives participated in enrichment activities to further their knowledge.

Community Leaders Jim Talton and Cressie Thigpen Selected to Lead New Citizens Advisory Committee on Operations

Retired accounting executive James R. Talton, Jr. and local attorney Cressie H. Thigpen, Jr. were named to head a new citizens advisory committee in August. The community leaders served as co-chairs of a 16-member committee that was established to examine the school system's operational needs. The committee was formed as part of the fiscal 2001-02 budget agreement reached in June by the Board of Education and Board of Commissioners in which the two boards agreed to appoint the committee to make recommendations about the operating budget.



New Security Measures Help Make Wake County Schools Safer

New equipment and manpower helped increase security and decrease incidences of violence on Wake school campuses this past year. School resource officers were assigned to the middle schools for the first time in addition to the ones already assigned at each of the high schools. Forty-two alarm systems were upgraded, bringing all 122 schools in 2001-2002 to state-of-the-art systems. In addition, all elementary, middle and high schools now have security camera systems, and the school system completed fitting all the elementary schools with new smart keys, or Intellikeys. This is in addition to better lighting, a 24-hour alarm monitoring center, night patrols, and bike patrol officers at the high schools that had been put in place over the past few years.

Federal Funds Awarded to Wake Magnet Schools

The U.S. Department of Education awarded a federal grant to the Wake County Schools magnet program at the beginning of the 2001-2002 school year. The U.S. Department of Education Magnet Schools Assistance Program awarded the \$6.6 million grant to support Brooks, Joyner, Millbrook, and Powell elementary schools and Moore Square Middle.

Citizens Invited to Serve on Board Committees

Citizens served alongside board members on the board's six committees this year, a change from the past committee structure where only board members served on the committees. The new structure provided the board with more citizen input. The six committees, Human Resources, Community Relations, Finance, Facilities, Program and Policy, were charged with studying issues for the board and making recommendations for board action.

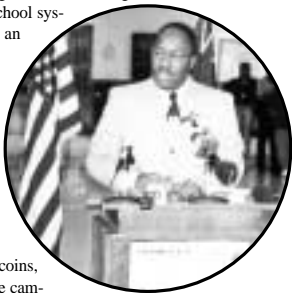
Wake Schools React to Events of Sept. 11

Flags flew at half-mast at Wake County Schools after Sept. 11 in memory of those who lost their lives in the terrible attacks on the U.S. While all athletic events, practices, and meetings were cancelled Sept. 11, after-school services were provided. After receiving a number of phone calls about the status of schools, the school system's e-mail notification service notified parents that school would remain in session for the day. The Board of Education approved Superintendent Bill McNeal's recommendation to suspend all out-of-state field trips until Dec. 1 in light of the continued threat of terrorism and the potential U.S. military response.



Wake Students Raise More Than \$85,000 for Pennies for Patriotism and Pride

Wake students collected more than \$85,000 in the Pennies for Patriotism and Pride campaign. The fundraising drive was launched by the school system to provide students with an opportunity to reach out and help families victimized by the Sept. 11 tragedies in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. The one-week fund-raising drive was coordinated by Wake County Schools, Wake County PTA Council and Wachovia Bank. Donors brought their pennies, other coins, and cash to school during the campaign. In all, the school system raised more than \$173,957.09 for the victims of Sept. 11 through a variety of fund-raising efforts.



Wake's Dropout Rate Declines

The rate of students dropping out of grades 7-12 in the Wake County Public School System fell to 2.4 percent, lower than other metropolitan school systems in the state and the lowest rate for Wake County in more than a decade, according to a report issued by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction in January.

Committee Formed to Help Develop New Goal Beyond 2003

In November, Wake Superintendent Bill McNeal announced the formation of a committee to help develop academic goals for the school system following Goal 2003. McNeal said the committee will be named "Beyond 2003 - Voices and Choices," and will be led by Orage Quarles III, president and publisher of The News and Observer, and Lynn Garrison, vice president of Corporate Communications, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. Committee members will meet with community groups, business leaders, members of the faith community, teachers, employees, PTA members, and other citizens to seek input on the school system's next goal.

Board Caps Two Elementary Schools

Student Assignment Director Ramey Beavers discussed plans for capping enrollment at Hodge Road and Olive Chapel elementary schools with the Board of Education in April. The board agreed to cap enrollment at the two schools as part of the student assignment plan approved in March.

School Teams Receive Crisis Response Training

More than 1,000 school system principals, guidance counselors, and school staff received crisis response training during a three-day session held in October.



WCPSS Security Director Corey Duber reviewed the system's new "Major Crisis Event: Critical Incident Response Plan" with the group of educators. The training program was designed to prepare school personnel to handle a crisis on campus, to be aware of the impact of a violent episode on a school campus, to encourage each school to be prepared to help their students and community, and to ready professional counseling staff to respond to student emotional needs in the aftermath of a violent episode. Along with the training, 7,000 emergency kits were delivered to schools, filled with supplies such as bandages, paper bags and nonperishable food, supplied by the Wake PTA Council. The teachers were also asked to keep up-to-date emergency information for their students in the kits.

2001 School Improvement Conference Focuses on Narrowing the Achievement Gap

Wake school leaders discussed strategies for narrowing the achievement gap at the fifth Wake School Improvement Conference held in October. The School Improvement Conferences help the district introduce new initiatives, such as strategies for narrowing the achievement gap that school improvement teams can include in their plans.



2001-2002 Highlights

Cary Funds for Education Move Forward

For the second year in a row, the Town of Cary provided funds for public schools that serve Cary children. Schools that enroll 30 or more Cary children benefited from \$1.5 million set aside by the Town. More than 40 of Wake County's 122 public schools benefited from the funds. The money was used to address the School Improvement Plans at each school for items such as teacher training and technology enhancement.

Swearing In Ceremony Held for Newly Elected Board Members

Four Wake County Board of Education members were sworn into office by N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Beverly Lake in December. Kathryn Watson Quigg and Bill Fletcher return to the board, while Amy White and Patti Head were sworn in as newly-elected board members.



Superintendent McNeal Urges Wake Educators, Human Service Workers to Help Wake County Children

Superintendent Bill McNeal called for commitment and compassion in meeting the needs of Wake County children and their families, as he talked with 350 people gathered for Wake County's first United for Student Achievement event held in February. USA organizers hoped to build a child education resource network, create methods for getting resource information to parents and teachers of low-performing students, identify gaps in services and best practices among community service providers, and launch and coordinate specific interventions.



Wake Schools' Enrollment to Reach 160,000 by 2020

New enrollment projections announced in January showed Wake County schools gaining 60,000 students by 2020. The Wake County Planning Department projected the school system's enrollment will increase from 101,397 students to over 131,000 in 2010 and to more than 160,000 in 2020.

2002 End-of-Grade Tests: Scores Rise, Achievement Gap Narrows

Wake County students continued to improve their results on the N.C. End-of-Grade (EOG) tests with the highest number of students scoring at or above grade level ever achieved in Wake County, Superintendent Bill McNeal announced in June. In reading, the percentage of students who scored at or above grade level rose from 86 percent in 2001 to 88 percent in 2002, and the achievement gap narrowed as the percentage for African American students rose from 67 percent to 72 percent, and the percentage for Latino students rose from 72 to 74 percent. The percentage for white students who scored at or above grade level rose from 89 percent in 2001 to 91 percent in 2002, and the achievement gap narrowed as the percentage for African American students rose from 71 to 77 percent, and the percentage for Latino students rose from 79 to 83 percent. The percentage for white students rose from 96 to 97.

Community Members Help Set Priorities for School System During Summit

More than 600 citizens from across Wake County gathered together in May to help chart the future for the Wake County Public School System during the fifth annual Wake Education Summit. Individuals attending the summit worked in small groups to clarify priorities and recommend action steps to guide education leaders as they develop policy and direction for the county's schools. Participants were asked to look beyond 2003 to help shape the next set of goals for the school system and to identify a list of priorities that will be presented to the Citizens Advisory Committee for inclusion in its report to the County Commissioners and Board of Education.

MGT Selected to Audit School System Finances

In January, the Citizens Advisory Committee selected MGT of America to review the needs of the Wake County Public School System. The CAC was formed to determine the appropriate level of funding to ensure progress toward Goal 2003.



Voyager Summer Academy Program Makes Learning Fun

Approximately 4,000 Wake County students in grades 2-8 strengthened their basic reading and math skills in June as they explored far-flung destinations around the globe during the system's Summer Academy Program. The system's new approach to summer school helped students master basic skills by turning ordinary lessons into fun and exciting adventures.

Second Annual Independent Review of WCPSS Finds Progress and Challenges

The second annual independent performance review, 'Quality Matters 2002,' which was released in March, found that the Wake County Public School System continues to spend less per pupil than most other similarly sized school districts while achieving better results.

Superintendent McNeal Presents 2002-03 Budget Proposal

With an eye toward the weak economy, budget crunches at the state and local level, and entering the home stretch for Goal 2003, Superintendent Bill McNeal submitted a severely lean budget proposal to the Wake County Board of Education in April. Despite the school system's unflagging enrollment growth and the reality of inflation, the proposed new spending plan called for only a four percent increase in the local operating budget, which is funded by Wake County tax revenues. The only increases are those that are absolutely necessary, brought on by thousands more students projected to join Wake schools in 2002-2003.

Cary High Earns Blue Ribbon Award

Cary High School was named a 2001-2002 Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education in May. The Blue Ribbon Award is presented each year to schools across the nation that are models of excellence and equity, demonstrate a strong commitment to educational excellence for all students, and achieve high academic standards or show significant academic improvement over five years.

Board Approves New Dress Code Policy

After a year of studying the issue and receiving public input, the Board of Education approved a revised dress code policy for students and faculty in April. The new dress code policy went into effect at the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year.

Piton Foundation Lauds WCPSS' Progress in Helping Low-Income Students Achieve

When representatives of the Piton Foundation of Denver, Colorado, were looking for examples of successful school systems helping low-income students achieve, they turned to the Wake County Public School System. A report from the foundation released in June praises the school system for the steps it has taken to provide learning environments in which all children can succeed and maintain the strength of all its schools through a combination of magnet school choice and a student assignment plan aimed at academic achievement.

Board of Education Approves 2002-2003 Student Assignment Plan

The Board of Education finalized and approved the student assignment plan for 2002-2003 in March. The plan will help populate the three new schools that will open in 2002-2003, Ballentine Elementary, Moore Square Museums Magnet Middle, and Middle Creek High. It also addresses crowding and under enrollment issues while considering the free and reduce-priced lunch level goal and the achievement level goal.

Wake County Schools and Garner Build Partnership

Wake County School leaders and Garner school supporters began working together to strengthen Garner schools and bolster public support for them. Superintendent Bill McNeal, Board of Education Member Amy White, and Garner Mayor Sam Bridges met with more than 75 community and school leaders at a summit in Garner on April 5 and with a smaller group at the school administration building on June 18 to follow up on the summit discussions. School administrators, leaders from the Town of Garner, Garner Chamber of Commerce, and Garner Education Foundation agreed to form a partnership to support the schools.

"Our school board representative Amy White, Superintendent McNeal and other senior staffers have been very helpful in establishing meaningful dialogue and in beginning a process that will lead to greater and greater public confidence in the Garner area schools. Our parents, our Garner Education Foundation, our Town Board, our Chamber of Commerce and our school personnel all look forward to continuing this dialogue. We look forward to providing substantive assistance to our local schools in any way that we can."

Samuel L. Bridges
Mayor of Garner



Education Innovation

Wake County educators have found it takes a spirit of innovation to meet the individualized needs of all students in the Wake County Public School System. By using a variety of educational tools and approaches, teachers, principals and administrators are helping our students find their own individual paths to achievement, and in doing so, moving the entire school system forward.

Goal 2003

Each year, the students in the Wake County Public School System continue to outperform themselves and attain higher levels of academic success. Much of this improvement can be attributed to the system's and the community's total commitment to Goal 2003, which states that by 2003, 95 percent of students tested will be at or above grade level as measured by NC End-of-Grade testing at grades 3 and 8. The Board of Education adopted Goal 2003 in 1998 after the Wake County Education Summit called for the establishment of a goal to boost student achievement. Since then, board decisions and school system resources have been devoted toward reaching the goal. This focused attention by school system and the public has helped teachers and students reach what had appeared to be unreachable heights of success.

Accelerated Learning

The Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) has been an important tool in helping students who typically perform below grade level achieve success. Schools, community programs, neighborhood learning centers, and area churches have established programs to help small groups of students with reading and math. In the schools, teachers work extra hours with groups of 10 students or less, usually after school, during breaks and on Saturdays. ALP has been credited with helping the system close in on Goal 2003 and narrow the achievement gap.

Project Achieve

Six Wake County elementary schools and two middle schools tried out a new approach to teaching aimed at helping more students perform at grade level. Based on a successful Texas school system program refined by WCPSS managers for Wake students, Project Achieve boosts academic performance for all students by breaking down the standard course of study into 15-minute focus lessons with regular tests, refocusing lessons for students who do not master the material, and retests. Frequent testing ensures that students master the lessons. Students who master the material participate in enrichment activities while students who need further assistance work on the topic with their classroom teacher, in Accelerated Learning classes, and with volunteers. Cary, Creech Road, Hodge Road, Rand Road, Smith, and Vance elementary schools, and East Wake and East Garner middle schools all participated in Project Achieve this past year.



Voyager Summer Academy

Wake County educators found an exciting summer school curriculum for approximately 4,000 Wake County students in grades 2-8 who needed to strengthen their basic reading and math skills before taking End-of-Grade retests this summer. The Voyager Summer Academy program took students on a four-week adventure at 18 school sites across the county. Second-grade students focused on ancient Egypt, while third-graders studied Rome, fourth-graders learned about Greece, fifth-graders explored Africa, sixth-graders discovered China, and seventh- and eighth-graders examined Latin America. The system's new approach to summer school helped students master basic reading and math skills by turning ordinary lessons into fun and exciting adventures. Rather than just focusing on End-of-Grade test preparation like last year's Summer Academy, this



year's program used hands-on activities and themed projects to motivate students and encourage them to learn.

Partnership for Education Success

Wake County Schools and Wake County Human Services have joined together to work with families to achieve educational success for children. Struggling families may need help in other areas before they can be expected to encourage

their children to excel in school. The program helps families identify problems and solutions. The partnership brings teachers, guidance counselors, social workers, school nurses, and psychologists together with parents to work for children. Through family conferences and support services, educators and Human Service workers counsel families

and help children. Participating schools include Carver Elementary, Cary Elementary, Creech Road Elementary, Fuquay-Varina Elementary, Fuquay Varina Middle, Hodge Road Elementary, Holly Springs Elementary, Lincoln Heights Elementary, Rand Road Elementary, Smith Elementary, Vance Elementary, and Willow Springs Elementary.

Smaller Learning Communities

Following up on national research that suggests smaller schools may promote better learning environments for students, Wake County Public Schools has developed small learning communities called Career Academies. Career Academies offer a career-focused series of electives along with the core curriculum. These academies also offer hands-on learning outside of the classroom as well as the opportunity for students to interact with a wide range of business and community leaders. Students attend

classes together as a group and teachers teach as a team. Successful Career Academies include the Finance Academy at Sanderson High School, Medical Bioscience Academy at Enloe High School, Medical Science Academy at Athens Drive High School, Academy of Information Technology at Apex High, and Construction Technology at Wake Forest-Rolesville High. New academies are slated to open this year at Southeast Raleigh, Wakefield, Cary, Garner and Fuquay-Varina high schools.

Safe Schools

The Wake County School System has led a partnership of Wake agencies and community groups in a three-year federal grant program that sought safer schools and empowered students to make their schools more caring places. The grant offered wide-ranging initiatives from elementary classroom activities to family meals at schools. As a result, some schools formed Students Against Violence Everywhere Chapters, and a Youth Advisory Board of middle and high school students organized an annual summit where students heard speakers and competed for a grant to fund safety initiatives at their schools. During the three years of the grant, incidents of youth involved in crime and out-of-school suspensions decreased in Wake County Schools. At the same time, an increasing number of staff and students agreed their schools are safe places.

Middle School Study

Students moving from elementary to middle school in the sixth grade typically experience a drop in their End-of-Grade test scores. In an effort to put an end to this trend, the Wake County Public School System, developed a task force to study the issue and make recommendations for ways to boost student performance during the move from elementary to middle school. After much review, the task force came up with seven recommendations to be implemented this year.

- 1) Standardize transition documents and activities across the county;
- 2) Develop reading and math acceleration and enrichment electives;
- 3) Monitor and assess reading and mathematics growth;
- 4) Provide curriculum training for all sixth-grade teachers;
- 5) Provide training for all sixth-grade teachers in the program, create independence through student owned strategies;
- 6) Provide an instructional resource teacher for middle school; and
- 7) Continue to study the middle school model in relation to the transition year.



Continuous Improvement/ Baldrige Process

The Wake County School System uses the annual School Improvement Process to help the system move forward and has adopted many of the practices of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Malcolm Baldrige National Quality process to look for ways to improve. Congress established the Baldrige program in 1987 to raise awareness about the importance of quality and performance excellence as a competitive edge and expanded the program to include education in 1999. The Baldrige process focuses on seven areas: leadership; strategic planning; customer and market focus (for education: student, stakeholder, and market focus); information and analysis; human resource focus (for education: faculty and staff focus); process management; and business results (for education: organizational performance results). This process of self-examination had helped the school system determine how it can better meet the needs of those it serves.

ORACLE Database Management System

Thanks to the hard work of Wake County Public Schools' staff, the school system's business management systems are now all running using Oracle software applications, enabling the system to operate in a much more efficient and effective manner. Prior to making the conversion to Oracle, the system's human resources, purchasing, accounting, budget and payroll operations had been using software from the 1980s, all on systems that did not talk to each other. Oracle pulls all the business management systems together and integrates them with one another.

Rusty Lacy, Oracle Corporation regional vice president for state and local government, praised the Wake County Public School System for its success in implementing its computerized database system. Lacy said Wake's system is the largest financial applications, human resources, and payroll database system Oracle has in operation in a school system in the eastern U.S.

Leaders for a New Millennium

Wake County Public Schools along with the Wake Education Partnership and N.C. State University are making sure the school system has quality leaders at its helm well into the new millennium. In order to ensure the continued success of the school system, they have launched a new masters degree program in school administration to provide customized training for aspiring school leaders, focusing on real world challenges confronted by principals and assistant principals. The Leaders for a New Millennium Program is a 50-credit hour program for working professionals, which provides participants with a Masters of School Administration.

Museum Magnet Schools

The Wake County Public School System has partnered with area museums to create dynamic learning opportunities for Wake students. This fall, two new museum magnet schools, Moore Square Museums Magnet Middle and Brooks Museums Magnet Elementary opened their doors. Both schools are founded on the principle that children learn naturally in environments that support guided exploration and discovery. The schools will encourage meaningful apprenticeships and projects and foster interaction among peers and mentors. This unique learning environment allows students to use the museums' collections and exhibitions as a springboard for exploration and engaged study in all areas of instruction. The curriculum introduces students to the stimulating world of museum environments and the wealth of their culture, history, sciences, and arts. The instructional program offers opportunities to learn through interaction with exhibits and performances. Student experiences will include meaningful work behind the scenes with museum staff, technicians, archivists, researchers, and other experts. Educational outreach will extend to parents and members of the community.



Resources for Results

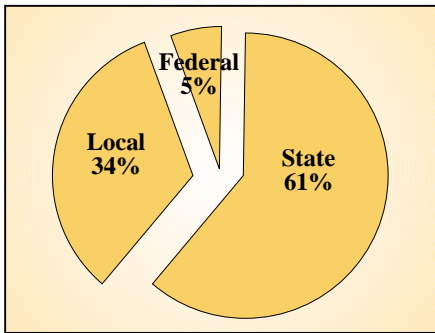
Leadership

Wake County Public School System resources are committed to academic excellence, which is described by the Board of Education's goal: By 2003, 95 percent of students tested will be at or above grade level as measured by NC EOG testing at grades 3 and 8. The board, superintendent, and senior leaders evaluate system performance based on the needs of students and stakeholders, our goal, and values, which guide all stages of strategic planning. Resources are allocated, systems are organized and people work to align all efforts to reach the goal.

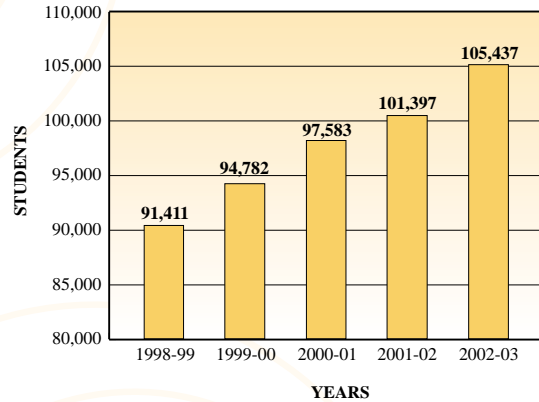
2002-2003 Budget

With an eye toward the weak economy, budget crunches at the state and local level, and entering the home stretch for Goal 2003, Superintendent Bill McNeal submitted a severely lean budget proposal to the Wake County Board of Education in April. Despite the school system's unflagging enrollment growth and the reality of inflation, the proposed new spending plan called for only a four percent increase in the county appropriation. The only increases are those that were absolutely necessary, brought on by the projected addition of 4,000 new students. The Board of Education approved the budget and sent it to the Wake County Commissioners who provided the full school system request in approving the county budget June 18.

Where Do WCPSS Funds Come From?



The WCPSS student population continues to grow dramatically



As I volunteer, I have come to realize that it truly does take an entire community to educate a child. The needs and desires of our children are far too diverse for any one entity to address them all. Thanks to the vision, the passion, and the work of hundreds of 'friends of public education' -- organizations such as the Junior League of Raleigh, the Chambers, Wake Education Partnership, corporations, PTAs and Community Learning Partners -- we are realizing the valued benefits that partnering brings. As a parent, I am grateful for those partnerships."



Virginia Parker
Past President, Junior League of Raleigh
President, Lead Mine Elementary PTA

Our schools

122 schools in 2001-2002
78 elementary, 24 middle, 15 high, 5 special optional
We invest in people. Our human resources account for 82 percent of the budget, providing each student a quality teacher and the support the teacher needs. Supplies and materials include textbooks, software, and instructional supplies.

- Salaries and benefits** \$623,260,485, or 82 %
- Purchased services** \$67,420,987, or 9%
- Supplies and materials** \$46,217,078, or 6%
- Capital outlay** \$5,478,849, or 1%
- Other objects** \$5,295,126 or 1%
- Transfers to charter schools** \$5,894,302, or 1%

Quality Matters 2002, the second annual independent performance review of the Wake school system was released in March. It found that the school system continues to spend less per pupil than most other similarly sized school districts while achieving better results. You can read more about the report at http://www.wakeedpartnership.org/pdfs/quality_matters_2001.pdf

Our students

101,397 students in 2001-2002

49,635 elementary, 24,484 middle, 27,278 high

2000-2001 data from NC DPI	Per pupil expenditure excluding child nutrition	County average personal income	Students (ADM)
Durham	7,284.57	29,739	29,237
Guilford	6,561.34	30,372	61,894
Mecklenburg	7,012.00	37,737	101,762
Wake	6,477.60	36,581	97,348

Efficient and Effective Operation

The Wake County Public School System manages resources in an efficient and effective manner. When compared to other urban North Carolina districts, WCPSS operates at the lowest per pupil expenditure of the group. We are proud of our efficiency, and we continually seek ways to make the best use of every dollar spent.



Recognized for Financial Management

Wake County Public School System demonstrates exemplary practices in areas of financial management, growth management, and grant awards. More importantly, student achievement results in the areas of reading and math, as measured by state End-of-Course (EOC) and End-of-Grade (EOG) tests as well as SAT results, are exemplary. Student performance has improved while dropout rates have declined.

The school system has faced many challenges over the past 10 years. During this time, we have successfully managed a building program, which is one of the largest in the nation. We have received an "unqualified" audit opinion each of the last 13 years.

For the past 12 years, we have received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from both the American School Business Officials (ASBO) and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). We have also received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the GFOA the past eight years. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. We have received the Meritorious Budget Award from the ASBO for the past three years. In 1998, our school system was the only one in North Carolina to receive the Advancement Award of the N.C. Quality Leadership Foundation - a process similar to the Malcolm Baldrige award criteria. We have aggressively managed our budget and wisely invested available resources. These accomplishments are the result of a dedicated and competent staff, a supportive board, and a caring and supportive community. The end result of all this has been continued improvement of programs and outcomes for our students.



RESULTS

Our Teachers

6,372 teachers in 2001-2002

3,033 elementary, 2,741 secondary, 598 other

Elementary School Teachers – 2000-2001 Data from Governor's Report Card

School Systems	Average local pay supplement from NC DPI	Fully Licensed Teachers	0-3 years experience	4-10 years experience	10+ years experience	Teacher turnover rate	National Board Certified Teachers
Durham	4428	81.6%	25.2%	26.6%	46.2%	18.0%	37
Guilford	3487	84.5%	25.9%	25.4%	48.2%	19.5%	107
Mecklenburg	5069	85.2%	29.1%	28.4%	41.6%	21.3%	180
Wake	5040	88.6%	23.9%	30.0%	45.4%	17.2%	143

Recognizing Success *(continued from page 1)*

Carolina. In the Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl, a state contest, Carnage won first in North Carolina. The Carnage team includes Alan Mitchell and Nick Thompson (co-captains), Katharine Edwards, Sonya Escamilla, Cameron Green, Michael Norheim and Alice Yen. Betsy Newmark is the faculty coach.

The Enloe High team captured first place at the N.C. Regional Science Bowl. The team includes Brendon Shields, Alec Durrell, Meredith Gilliam, Edward Shu, and Alex Sheppard. They won by answering the most questions on topics including astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, earth science, mathematics, and physics at the regional bowl hosted by N.C. Central University. The Enloe team went on to compete in the national competition in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Students from Enloe High and Leesville Road High won the North Carolina State University Mathematics Competition. The Enloe team of Christen Pelon, Tim Stallman, Alec Dunell, Ryan Yoakum, Brendan Shields, and Helen Nie won first place in the competition. Nan Gao of Leesville Road High won first place. Enloe students won the next three slots. Yoakum won second place, Shields third, and Nie fourth.

Students at Carnage Middle have been named finalists in a contest sponsored by CNN's education website. The contest is "An American Tapestry: Digital Movie." The Carnage students put together a story about their environmental work. They titled it "Carnage SERVES," or Students Efficiently Restoring Vital Environmental Site. The story describes the students' efforts to clean and study a wetlands area near the school.

Fuquay-Varina High Seniors Kristina Coudriet and Heather Wray were chosen to serve as members of the Youth Advisory Board for the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (S.A.V.E.). The Fuquay-Varina students worked with other members of the advisory board to develop plans to prevent school violence and organize an annual S.A.V.E. summit in April 2002. Coudriet and Wray founded the S.A.V.E. chapter at their school several years ago.

A Garner Senior High student is among 56 students to win Morehead Awards to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Bruce Warren Andrews, Jr. won the award. Andrews is Garner Senior high student body president, a member of the varsity football and soccer teams and founder of the Junior Optimist Club. The scholarship, valued at \$70,000, covers the full cost of four years at UNC-CH plus summer enrichment programs and a computer.

Carnage Middle School captured its fourth state History Bowl title in seven years. The eighth-graders from Carnage include captain Will Schultz, Kelsey Hawkins, Tyler Mollenkopf, Toan Tran-Phu and Andrew Zonderman. The coach is teacher Betsy Newmark. The History Bowl is co-sponsored by the state Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and N.C. Historic Sites, a division of the state Department of Cultural Resources.

Danielle Fernandez, a student in Ms. Faye Beal's eighth-grade law class at West Cary Middle School, won second place in the state Young Lawyers' Essay contest, Celebrate Freedom. The recognition ceremony was held in the Old State House on May 2 and was attended by state judges and lawyers.

A team of 28 Southeast Raleigh High students, led by teachers Debbie Kellogg and John Geraghty, competed in the FIRST Regional Robot Competition in Richmond, Va., earlier this month. The team won the Chairman's Awards given to the team that best exemplifies the meaning of FIRST and is a model program for others; won the Daimler Chrysler Team Spirit Award for the second year in a row; was named the

"Best All Around Team" as voted on by other teams; and received a certificate of recognition from FIRST founder Dean Kamen for "Outstanding dedication and extraordinary effort to promote and expand the FIRST robotics program in NC." The team ended the qualification rounds 9th out of 66 competing teams. The team included Bryan Blythe, Charles Howard, Kenan Miller, Seth Paye, Ryan Peacock, Matt Rhinehart, Andrew Seltzman, Jeff Zehnder, Ricky Bennett, Matthew Caswell, Patrick Connelly, Jeremy Dunbar, Tommy Fort, Mario Gomez, Charlie Humes, Stephen Ji, Harrison Kelly, Patrick Lentz, Yomi Ojo, David Page, Josh Paye, Danielle Peacock, Brandon Reed, Brian Shanks, Jessica Starr, Lauren Stone, Geoff Swanstrom, and Jordan Wright. The students worked with mentors from IBM and NC State University.

At the Central Regional Science Fair, Southeast Raleigh High students Kenan Miller and Andrew Seltzman placed first in their respective categories; Kenan in the senior technological category with his project "Rocket Science" and Andrew in the senior physical science category with his project "Research on Current Carrying Capacity of Li - Ag Salt Cells: Effect of Ion Radius and Newtonian Transfer."

Schools Recognized

Cary High School has been named a 2001-2002 Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. The Blue Ribbon Award is presented each year to schools across the nation that are models of excellence and equity, demonstrate a strong commitment to educational excellence for all students, and to schools that achieve high academic standards or show significant academic improvement over five years. "It's exciting to be recognized for our students and the community," said Cary High Principal Dave Coley. "But most importantly, it affirms what our teachers have been doing for the last several years on a daily basis. To have that recognition, nationally, of our efforts is certainly outstanding."

Teams from six Wake County schools won at the regional Science Olympiad held at Garner Senior High. The teams were from Green Hope, Southeast Raleigh, Leesville Road and Enloe high schools, as well as Carnage and Ligon middle schools. Students took tests and built machines to demonstrate their scientific knowledge.

Six Wake County magnet schools earned recognition from the Magnet Schools of America, the national organization for magnet schools. Farmington Woods Elementary, Washington Elementary, and Ligon Middle were Magnet School of Merit Winners. Combs Elementary, Lincoln Heights Elementary and East Millbrook Middle earned Magnet School of Distinction awards.

For the third year in a row, Vandora Springs Elementary has been recognized as a Super Safe School by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Vandora Springs was the only school in the Triangle to earn the award for providing a safe learning environment for children and educators. The Triple "S" School Award was established by the Department of Public Instruction's School Improvement Division to recognize public schools that go above and beyond in their efforts to ensure the safety of students and staff.

The Wake County Board of Education recognized students who participated in the Wake County Public School System EnergySavers program. Jeri Preddy of WCPSS Organizational Development presented five

schools that were National and State National Energy Education Development (NEED) Youth Award winners. The award winners included:

WCPSS EnergySavers
Region of the Year - National Level
Green Hope High
Rookie of the Year - State Level
Davis Drive Middle
Junior Level Winner - State Level
Lockhart Elementary
Elementary Level Finalist - State Level
Knightdale Elementary
Honorable Mention - State Level
North Ridge Elementary
Honorable Mention - State Level

Students from these schools took on individual energy conservation projects that they documented and shared with NEED. As a result, they were honored on the state and national levels at the NEED National Recognition ceremonies held in June in Washington, D.C.

Enloe High and Kingswood Elementary were two of the 12 public schools from North Carolina that were visited by a state task force looking at "Hallmarks of Excellence" in North Carolina's K-12 public schools. The Education First Task Force, chaired by State Superintendent Mike Ward, BellSouth North Carolina President Krista Tillman, and Halifax County Superintendent Willie Gilchrist, and comprised of business, education, community and government leaders, looked at outstanding schools across the state as a part of its charge to develop a road map for building a superior system of education in North Carolina.

Carnage Middle earned a \$10,000 grant from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction to begin a service learning program at the school. The program centers on the exploration and maintenance of the revitalized wetlands adjacent to the school. Science teacher Holly Hanrahan will coordinate the project. Her students began working in the wetlands last year. They partnered with a community organization, Legacy Group 34, to clean up and beautify the area's wildlife habitat. Dr. Norman Camp, Director of N.C. Learn and Serve, will work with Carnage teachers to create the service learning program for the school's science students.

Combs Elementary earned the 2001 Governor's Entrepreneurial Schools Award. The award recognizes schools that take risks and find innovative ways to improve education and learning. Combs is a leadership magnet school that uses the principles of Steven Covey, author of "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People."

Recognizing Success

Two Wake County Schools and their business supporters have been recognized with the Governor's Business Partnership Awards. The Athens Drive High School Business Alliance and Durant Road Middle School Business Alliance were recognized for their accomplishments at the "Meet in the Middle" Conference 2001. The Governor's Business Partnership Awards were created to recognize outstanding sustained business and alliance partnerships that have significantly improved student performance.

Educators Recognized

Third-grade teacher Kitty Rutherford of Dillard Drive Elementary has been awarded the 2001 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the nation's highest honor for mathematics and science teachers in grades K-12. Rutherford is one of 200 teachers from across the U.S. to earn the honor this year. Each year, after an initial selection process at the state level, a national panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians and educators recommends elementary and secondary teachers in math and science to receive a presidential award. Each teacher receives a \$7,500 educational grant for his or her school, a presidential citation and a trip to Washington, D.C., for a series of recognition events.

Durant Road Middle Principal Tom Benton was named Middle Level Administrator of the Year in Region 3 for the NC Middle School Association. Superintendent Bill McNeal said that Benton was recognized at a recent meeting of Wake County principals for earning the honor.

Cary High Principal Dave Coley is one of 12 principals from across the nation selected by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) to serve on its advisory board of elementary and secondary principals.

The advisory board will serve a variety of roles including: increasing administrative awareness of the National Board Certification process and the benefits earned by teachers who achieve it, enlisting principals to encourage and

support teachers who pursue National Board Certification, encouraging principals to empower National Board Certified Teachers to assume leadership roles in their schools and communities, and identifying strategies and resources for using NBPTS Standards and the National Board Certification process as a framework for the professional growth of all teachers and principals.

Millbrook High teacher Lindy Poling has been named the VFW's national Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year. Poling was nominated by the mother of one of her students and was sponsored by the Garner VFW Post and Auxiliary. The award recognizes the nation's top elementary, junior high, and high school teachers of citizenship education topics. Poling was the winner in the high school category, competing over one thousand other nominees from across the nation. At Millbrook High, Poling teaches U.S. History and Lessons of Vietnam. She encourages students to be active citizens and to seek opportunities such as serving as a legislative page or attending Boys State or Girls State. She was Lead Teacher at the 2000-2001 North Carolina Capitol Forum where students talked with state lawmakers about the nation's future.

Five Wake County educators were honored before the Board of Education. Artie Kamiya of WCPSS Curriculum and Instruction congratulated the educators for their recognition: Elizabeth Grimes-Droessler as Dance Education Administrator of the Year; Steve Moore as Technology Educator of the Year - Elementary; Chris Droessler as Technology Educator of the Year - High; Susan Hartley as Dance Education Teacher of the Year; and Libby Leary as Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year. They were named best in the state in their professional fields at conferences held earlier this year.

The N.C. Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance honored Besty Beals, a physical education specialist at Northwoods Elementary for her lifetime of service in the field of physical education by presenting her with the Honor Award.

Leesville Road Middle teacher Carolyn Moser has been named to USA Today's 2001 All-USA Teacher Team. Moser, a seventh-grade science teacher, was honored as part of the newspaper's annual recognition of teachers. A colleague said "Mrs. Moser unlocked her students' minds by involving community resources in her activities to make education relevant, practical, and expose student to careers involving the application of the content area." The newspaper recognized educators who "develop ways to ratchet up learning and make academics get real." Moser was named to the paper's third team. It honors 20 teachers on its first, second and third teams.

Administration Recognized

The Association of Business Officials (ASBO) International awarded a meritorious budget award for excellence in the preparation and issuance of a school system annual budget to the Wake County Public School System for the third consecutive year. The Government Finance Officers Association also awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the school system. This is an unprecedented ninth consecutive year the school system has earned the state award. The Budget Office team includes Budget Director Terry Kimzey, Meg Farris, Yadira Vasquez, Cherie Wiggs, and Suzan Johnson.

The purchasing warehouse was presented a Certificate of Appreciation by Governor Mike Easley for its work with students within WCPSS. Billy Tabron, warehouse team leader, accepted the award at a ceremony conducted at SAS Institute in Cary. The purchasing department, and in particular Billy, has a long history of working with WCPSS students to prepare them for jobs when they graduate.

The North Carolina Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects presented an award to CLH Design, PA in recognition of outstanding professional achievement in the site development and landscape design at Yates Mill Elementary. Project consultant was Christine Hilt. The architect was Pearce Brinkley, Cease and Lee. The school system staff included Gerald Core, project manager, and Sheri Green, facility planner.

The American Council of Engineering Companies of NC presented an honors award to Law Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc in recognition of engineering excellence in the roof replacement and implementation at Carroll Middle. Principal scientist was Lane Gallo. Project Manager was Kelly Wilcox. The school system staff included Greg Clark, project manager. Carroll Middle Assistant Principal Tom Filer was honored for his coordination of school staff, students and contractors during the project.

Building and sustaining a real partnership is difficult; it requires candor, trust, shared goals and a willingness to adjust to changing conditions. From an economic development and business perspective, we could not hope for a better partner than the Wake County Public School System.

Harvey A. Schmitt, CCE
President and CEO, Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce



WCPSS Basic Facts

Enrollment: 101,397 students on the 20th day of school 2001-2002

Student profile - 2001-2002

American Indian	276
Asian	4,164
Hispanic	5,665
African American	26,663
White	62,455
Multi-Racial	2,174
Total enrollment	101,397

Number of Schools: 125 including 79 elementary, 25 middle, 16 high, 5 special/optional schools. (2002-2003)

Schools of Excellence: 30 Schools of Excellence in 2001. A school is designated as a School of Excellence if 90 percent or more of the scores achieved by the students on the EOG tests are in Levels III or IV, and if the school exceeds expected growth requirements.

Schools of Distinction: 53 Schools of Distinction in 2001. A school is designated a School of Distinction if 80-89 percent of the scores achieved by the students on the EOG tests are in Levels III or IV, regardless of whether growth targets are met.

Per Pupil Expenditure: \$6,477 (2000-2001)

Teacher/Student Ratios: Grades K: 1 to 21.5; Grades 1-3: 1 to 23; Grades 4-5: 1 to 25.5; Grades 6-8: 1 to 22.5; Grades 9-12: 1 to 24.

Number of Employees: 11,789 full-time employees (based on 2001 EEO report)

Number of Teachers: 6,372 full time teachers (based on 2001 EEO report)

Teacher Salaries: \$28,153 to \$58,032 is the teacher salary range in Wake County; \$44,092 is the average teacher salary.

National Board Certified Teachers: 336

Number of Graduates in 2002: 5,406

Total Scholarship Dollars earned by Class of 2002: \$30,101,122

Graduates Pursuing Higher Education:

87 percent of the 2002 graduates planned to continue their education; 62 percent planned to attend a four-year college and 25 percent planned to attend a two-year college.

Wake SAT Scores: Average score in 2000-2001 was 1054, well above the state average of 992 and the national average of 1020.

Dropouts: The dropout rate for students in grades 7-12 fell to 2.4 percent in 2000-2001, lower than other metropolitan school systems in the state and the lowest rate for Wake County in more than a decade.

School Buses: 714 yellow school buses covered more than 13.2 million miles, carrying more than 53,000 students daily during the 2001-2002 school year.

WCPSS Cabinet

Bill McNeal, Superintendent

Janice Shearin, Special Assistant to the Superintendent

Jo Baker, Associate Superintendent – Instructional Services

Del Burns, Associate Superintendent – Administrative Services

Ray Massey, Associate Superintendent – Auxiliary Services

Walt Sherlin, Associate Superintendent – Operational Services

Brenda Barker, Chief Technology Officer

Karen Banks, Assistant Superintendent – Evaluation and Research

Danny Barnes, Assistant Superintendent – East Wake

Maurice Boswell, Assistant Superintendent – Human Resources Employee Relations

Mike Burris, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities – Auxiliary Services

Luther Cherry, Assistant Superintendent – Western Wake

Ann Hooker, Assistant Superintendent – Northern Wake

Linda Isley, Assistant Superintendent – Student Support Services

Cindi Jolly, Assistant Superintendent – Curriculum and Instruction

Toni Patterson, Assistant Superintendent – Human Resources Staffing and Development

John C. Ringo, Assistant Superintendent – Southern Wake

Jonibel Willis, Assistant Superintendent – Central Wake

Michael Evans, Director of Communications

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