



East Wake High School

Impact Study on Academies

After a decade of East Wake High School operating four small schools, or academies, WCPSS leaders initiated an impact study to determine this design's effect on student achievement.

The study, *Evaluating the Impact of Converting a Comprehensive High School into Academies*, was completed in October 2014. It has been shared with the Board of Education, senior leadership, East Wake principals, school staff and now, the broader community.

Impact study and findings

The study recounts the original ideas and goals behind operating four individual academies and examines learning outcomes over the last 10 years. Data from the study showed that many of the intended outcomes were not realized. The study also delineated a number of challenges that would remain should EWHS continue to operate as four individual schools.

The study revealed an imbalance in demographics and academic strengths among students in the four academies; lack of a clearly defined vision; scheduling conflicts; and learning proficiency and graduation rates that are below the district average, among other findings.

Proposed Timeline

On Jan. 12, 2015, the Board of Education publicly reviewed the study. At its Feb. 3 meeting the Board voted to rename the school, with eventual unification proposed. Planning for the new school will occur over the next 18 months. The school will have one principal, who will be in place July 1, but current essential courses will continue to be offered through the end of the 2015-16 school year.

When school opens in August 2016, the new model will begin to be phased in and be fully implemented over the next three years. District support and resources supporting the redesign would be phased in as well by August 2019.

Following is a **timeline** for the redesign work for East Wake High School:

- January 2014 – Impact study of the data from four East Wake academies begins.

- October-November 2014 – *Evaluating the Impact of Converting a Comprehensive High School into Academies* shared with Board of Education leadership, district senior leadership and the four East Wake principals.
- January 2015 – Impact study shared with the full Board of Education at monthly meeting.
- February 2015 – Board votes to rename East Wake High in anticipation of unification. **Feb. 17 public hearing on the school’s unification, 6 pm, 5625 Dillard Drive, Cary.** Initial planning phase (Phase I) begins.
- February – June 2015 – Phase I planning continues. **Impact study shared with community.** East Wake Education Work Group begins focusing on K-12 school needs for the Eastern Wake elementary, middle and high schools. Search for new principal begins for East Wake High School.
- July 1, 2015 – New principal in place.
- July 2015 – August 2016 – Phase 2 of planning. Work around school’s redesign occurs during this phase.
 - School opens August 2015 as unified school but with academy courses intact for 2015-16.
 - Staff invited to reapply for positions beginning in spring 2016, after a more definitive plan in place.
- August 2016 – June 2019 – Phased-in rollout of new model begins. School receives needed support, resources.
- August 2019 – School operates as a unified high school under new model.