

Students Leaving and Entering WCPSS in 2006-07

Growth and Planning Department

July 28, 2007

A comparison of enrollment in Month 1, 2006 with Month 1, 2005 shows a net one-year growth of **7,568** students for the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS). An analysis of student entry and exit coding by data managers shows that a large majority of new students came from other public school systems (**65.2% from U.S. schools** and **6.4% from foreign schools**). In addition, the district enrolled more students from private, religious, charter and home schools during the past year than left the district to enter those types of schools.

As shown in Table 2 on the following page:

- While **774** students left WCPSS at the end of the 2005-06 school year to enter private or religious schools, **1,249** students entered WCPSS from private or religious schools at the start of the 2006-07 school year.
- While **186** students left to enter home schools at the end of 2005-06, **235** entered from home schools at the start of 2006-07.
- While **358** left to enter charter schools at the end of 2005-06, **598** entered from charter schools at the start of 2006-07.
- While **2,979** left to enter other public school systems outside Wake County at the end of 2005-06, **6,359** entered from public schools outside the county, state or US at the start of 2006-07.

Enrollment growth in WCPSS results from a complex pattern of children being enrolled or withdrawn by their parents, both prior to the start of a school year and during the school year. While some students leave WCPSS each year to enter home, charter, or private schools or move out of Wake County, many more students enter the school system, resulting in a rising rate of growth. On the 20th day of the 2005-06 school year, there were **120,504** students in WCPSS. By the end of the year, total system membership had fallen slightly to **120,297**. However, the changes after the 20th day varied by level with a net gain of **1,316** students in elementary schools, a gain of **253** in middle schools, and a net loss of **1,776** students in high schools due to mid-year graduation and dropouts. Between the end of the 2005-06 school year and the beginning of the 2006-07 school year, **5,737** students left the school district and **6,413** graduated. Taking their place were **10,438** kindergarten students and **8,873** new students in grades 1-12. On the 20th day of the 2006-07 school year, there were **128,072** students in WCPSS.

The following statements describe the **8,873** new students who entered our school system in grades 1-12 prior to the 20th day of the 2007-08 school year:

- **571** (6.4%) were from public schools outside the United States;
- **3,997** (45.0%) were from U.S. public schools outside North Carolina;
- **1,791** (20.2%) were from North Carolina public schools outside Wake County;
- **1,249** (14.1%) were from private or religious schools;
- **598** (6.7%) were from charter schools;
- **235** (2.6%) were from home schools;
- **432** (4.9%) prior school unknown;
- **4,218** (47.5%) were White, **2,643** (29.8%) were Black, **981** (11.1%) were Hispanic, **576** (6.5%) were Asian, **427** (4.8%) were Multi-racial, and **28** (0.3%) were American Indian.

The following statements describe the **5,737** students who left the school system after the end of the 2005-06 school year:

- **226** (3.9%) went to public schools outside the United States;
- **1,414** (24.6%) went to U.S. public schools outside North Carolina;
- **1,339** (23.3%) went to North Carolina public schools outside Wake County;
- **774** (13.5%) went to private or religious schools;
- **358** (6.2%) went to charter schools;
- **186** (3.2%) went to home schools;
- **483** (8.4%) were identified as summer dropouts;
- **957** (16.7%) went to unknown destination;
- **2,900** (50.5%) were White, **1,798** (31.3%) were Black, **526** (9.2%) were Hispanic, **248** (4.3%) were Asian, **238** (4.1%) were Multi-Racial, and **27** (0.5%) were American Indian.

Table 1 shows the changes in student membership that occurred during the 2005-06 school year, after the 2005-06 school year, and during the 2006-07 school year. As noted earlier, elementary schools experience a significant gain in membership after the first month of school. Table 2 shows the students entering and leaving WCPSS between the end of the 2005-06 school year and the end of 2006-07.

	Elementary	Middle	High	Total
Net Change 20th Day 05-06 to EOY 05-06	1,316	253	-1,776	-207
Net Change EOY 05-06 to 20th Day 06-07	2,830	1,019	3,926	7,775
Net Change 20th Day 05-06 to 20th Day 06-07	4,146	1,272	2,150	7,568
Net Change 20th Day 06-07 to EOY 06-07	954	60	-1,981	-967

Student membership at the end of the 2005-06 school year	120,297	
Source or Destination of Students	Number Entering The 2006-07 School Year	Number Leaving After The 2005-06 School Year
Students who graduated in May 2006		6,413
Students who were in WCPSS before and after summer break (grades 1-12)	108,619	
Kindergarten students (20th Day)	10,438	
NC public schools outside WCPSS	1,791	1,339
Public schools outside NC	4,568	1,640
Private or religious schools	1,249	774
Charter schools	598	358
Home schools	235	186
Prior school unknown/unknown destination	432	957
Identified as summer dropouts		483
Left WCPSS within the first 20 days of 06-07		638
Student membership on the 20th day of 2006-07	128,072	

Note: The kindergarten students were not all new to WCPSS. This number includes students who were retained in kindergarten from the previous year and students who were served in WCPSS as pre-k students.

Demographics of Exiting Students

Students who exited WCPSS after the end of the 2005-06 school year can be divided into three groups:

- Students who left WCPSS to enter some other school system,
- Students who dropped out, and
- Students who graduated at the end of the year.

Table 3 shows the ethnicity of those three groups. As shown, the ethnic composition varies by student destination. White students comprise a large majority of those leaving WCPSS to enter private, religious, or home schools, and a smaller majority of those entering charter schools or public schools outside of North Carolina.

Table 3 Ethnicity of Students Leaving WCPSS After The End Of 2005-06 School Year							
	TOTAL	White	Black	Hispanic /Latino	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Multi- Racial	American Indian/ Alaskan Native
Unknown	957	369	393	114	44	33	4
		39%	41%	12%	5%	3%	0%
Home Schools	186	142	15	8	3	13	5
		76%	8%	4%	2%	7%	3%
Private or Religious Schools	774	558	140	21	32	23	0
		72%	18%	3%	4%	3%	0%
Charter Schools	358	184	137	9	15	12	1
		51%	38%	3%	4%	3%	0%
Public Outside NC	1,640	848	414	170	108	90	10
		52%	25%	10%	7%	5%	1%
Public in NC	1,339	629	513	105	28	58	6
		47%	38%	8%	2%	4%	0%
Subtotal: Exiting WCPSS To Enter Other Schools	5,254	2,730	1,612	427	230	229	26
		52%	31%	8%	4%	4%	0%
Summer Dropouts	483	170	186	99	18	9	1
		35%	39%	20%	4%	2%	0%
Subtotal: Exiting Students Grades K-12	5,737	2,900	1,798	526	248	238	27
		50.5%	31.3%	9.2%	4.3%	4.1%	0.5%
End-Of-Year Graduates	6,413	4,196	1,516	267	288	128	18
		65%	24%	4%	4%	2%	0%
Total Leaving After 2005-06	12,150	7,096	3,314	793	536	366	45
		58%	27%	7%	4%	3%	0%

Demographics of New Students

Students served in the 2006-07 school year can be separated into three groups:

- Students who came into WCPSS from various sources after attending other schools in the 2005-06 school year,
- Students who began 2006-07 after attending WCPSS schools in 2005-06,
- Students in kindergarten.

Table 4 shows the ethnicity of those three groups. As shown, the ethnic composition varies slightly. While White students comprise 55% of students who attended WCPSS in 2005-06 and continued in WCPSS in 2006-07, they comprise 52% of new kindergarten students and 48% of new students entering grades 1-12. Conversely, while Hispanic students comprised 10% of continuing students, they comprise 13% of kindergarten students and 11% of new students in grades 1-12. Asian and Multi-racial students increased their representation slightly among both kindergarten and new 1-12 students. The percentage of Black students entering the school system in grades 1-12 was slightly higher than the percentage continuing from 2005-06, while the percentage of Black students in kindergarten was slightly higher than the other three groups.

As a result of these shifts, the overall student population is slightly more ethnically diverse in 2006-07 than it was in 2005-06.

Table 4							
Ethnicity of Students Entering WCPSS Prior To The 20th Day 2006-07							
Type of Prior School	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Multiracial	Amer. Indian
Unknown	432	323	49	29	17	14	0
		75%	11%	7%	4%	3%	0%
Home School	235	199	15	6	3	11	1
		85%	6%	3%	1%	5%	0%
Private/Religious School	1,249	782	282	46	88	50	1
		63%	23%	4%	7%	4%	0%
Charters Outside NC	74	32	23	7	2	9	1
		43%	31%	9%	3%	12%	1%
NC Charters	524	206	263	17	17	20	1
		39%	50%	3%	3%	4%	0%
Public Outside NC	4,568	2,077	1,109	741	386	242	13
		45%	24%	16%	8%	5%	0%
Public In NC	1,791	599	902	135	63	81	11
		33%	50%	8%	4%	5%	1%
Subtotal: New Students Grades 1-12	8,873	4,218	2,643	981	576	427	28
		48%	30%	11%	7%	5%	0%
WCPSS Students From The 2005- 06 School Year (K-12)	108,619	59,281	29,261	10,547	5,295	3,958	277
		55%	27%	10%	5%	4%	0%
Kindergarten (20th Day)	11,098	5,619	2,584	1,626	610	626	33
		51%	23%	15%	5%	6%	0%

As shown in Table 5, a comparison of 20th day reports of student membership by race and gender shows almost no change for American Indian students, a slight increase in the percentage of Asian, Multi-racial and Hispanic students, and a slight decrease in the percentage of Black and White students.

		2005-06		2006-07	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
American Indian	Male	161	0.13%	159	0.12%
	Female	168	0.14%	172	0.13%
Asian	Male	2,788	2.31%	3,243	2.53%
	Female	2,864	2.38%	3,215	2.51%
Hispanic	Male	5,659	4.70%	6,645	5.19%
	Female	5,444	4.52%	6,435	5.02%
Black	Male	16,201	13.44%	17,121	13.37%
	Female	16,224	13.46%	17,165	13.40%
White	Male	34,017	28.23%	35,183	27.47%
	Female	32,731	27.16%	33,750	26.35%
Multi-Racial	Male	2,130	1.77%	2,446	1.91%
	Female	2,117	1.76%	2,538	1.98%
Total	Male	60,956	50.58%	64,797	50.59%
	Female	59,548	49.42%	63,275	49.41%
		120,504		128,072	

Summary

Despite the rapid growth in student membership in WCPSS, the overall makeup of the student population changed only slightly. A large majority (65.2%) of new students in grades 1-12 came from U.S. public schools outside Wake County, and a similar majority (51.9%) of students leaving the school system prior to graduation went to other U.S. public school systems. The number of students entering the district from private, religious, charter, or home schools was larger than the number leaving the district to attend those types of schools. Only slight differences were found in the ethnicity of students entering and leaving the school district across the two years.