

Students Leaving and Entering WCPSS in 2007-08

Growth and Planning Department

July 28, 2008

A comparison of enrollment in Month 1, 2007 with Month 1, 2006 shows a net one-year growth of **5,930** 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 (**63.5% from U.S. schools** and **6.8% 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 **830** students left WCPSS at the end of the 2006-07 school year to enter private or religious schools, **1,216** students entered grades **1-12** in WCPSS from private or religious schools at the start of the 2007-08 school year.
- While **207** students left to enter home schools at the end of 2006-07, **249** entered from home schools at the start of 2007-08.
- While **464** left to enter charter schools at the end of 2006-07, **500** entered from charter schools at the start of 2007-08.
- While **2,960** left to enter other public school systems outside Wake County at the end of 2006-07, **5,993** entered from public schools outside the county, state or US at the start of 2007-08.

Enrollment growth in WCPSS results from a complex pattern of children being enrolled or withdrawn by their parents, both prior to the start of a school year and during the school year.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 2006-07 school year, there were **128,072** students in WCPSS. By the end of the year, total system membership had fallen slightly to **127,105**. However, the changes after the 20th day varied by level with a net gain of **954** students in elementary schools, a gain of **60** in middle schools, and a net loss of **1,981** students in high schools due to mid-year graduation and dropouts. Between the end of the 2006-07 school year and the beginning of the 2007-08 school year, **6,221** students left the school district and **6,843** graduated. Taking their place were **11,289** kindergarten students and **8,518** new students **in grades 1-12**. On the 20th day of the 2007-08 school year, there were **134,002** students in WCPSS.

The following statements describe the **8,518** new students who entered our school system **in grades 1-12** prior to the 20th day of the 2007-08 school year:

- **582 (6.8%)** were from public schools outside the United States;
- **3,751 (44.0%)** were from U.S. public schools outside North Carolina;
- **1,660 (19.5%)** were from North Carolina public schools outside Wake County;
- **1,216 (14.3%)** were from private or religious schools;
- **500 (5.9%)** were from charter schools;
- **249 (2.9%)** were from home schools;
- **560 (6.6%)** prior school unknown;
- 4,030 (47.3%) were White, 2,432 (28.6%) were Black, 994 (11.7%) were Hispanic, 591 (6.9%) were Asian, 435 (5.1%) were Multi-racial, and 36 (0.4%) were American Indian.

The following statements describe the **6,221** students who left the school system after the end of the 2006-07 school year:

- **232** (3.7%) went to public schools outside the United States;
- **1,365** (21.9%) went to U.S. public schools outside North Carolina;
- **1,363** (21.9%) went to North Carolina public schools outside Wake County;
- **830** (13.3%) went to private or religious schools;
- **464** (7.5%) went to charter schools;
- **20** (3.3%) went to home schools;
- **360** (5.8%) were identified as summer dropouts;
- **1,400** (22.5%) went to unknown destination;
- 3,045 (48.9%) were White, 1,884 (30.3%) were Black, 682 (11.0%) were Hispanic, 297 (4.8%) were Asian, 297 (4.8%) were Multi-racial, and 16 (0.3%) were American Indian.

Table 1 shows the changes in student membership that occurred during the 2006-07 school year, after the 2006-07 school year, and during the 2007-08 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 2006-07 school year and the 20th day of 2007-08.

	Elementary	Middle	High	Total
Net Change 20th Day 06-07 to EOY 06-07	954	60	-1,981	-967
Net Change EOY 06-07 to 20th Day 07-08	2,331	884	3,682	6,897
Net Change 20th Day 06-07 to 20th Day 07-08	3,285	944	1,701	5,930
Net Change 20th Day 07-08 to EOY 07-08	699	-6	-2,177	-1,484

Student membership at the end of the 2006-07 school year	127,105	
Source or Destination of Students	Number Entering The 2007-08 School Year by The 20 th Day	Number Leaving After The 2006-07 School Year
Students who graduated in May 2007		6,843
Students who were in WCPSS before and after summer break (grades 1-12)	114,741	
Kindergarten students (20th Day)	11,289	
NC public schools outside WCPSS	1,660	1,363
Public schools outside NC	4,333	1,597
Private or religious schools	1,216	830
Charter schools	500	464
Home schools	249	207
Prior school unknown/unknown destination	560	1,400
Identified as summer dropouts		360
Left WCPSS within the first 20 days of 07-08		731
Student membership on the 20th day of 2007-08	134,002	

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 2006-07 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 2006-07 School Year							
	TOTAL	White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian/Pacific Islander	Multi-Racial	American Indian/Alaskan Native
Unknown	1,400	467	596	208	47	76	6
		33%	43%	15%	3%	5%	0%
Home Schools	207	173	16	4	2	12	0
		84%	8%	2%	1%	6%	0%
Private or Religious Schools	830	624	114	26	39	26	1
		75%	14%	3%	5%	3%	0%
Charter Schools	464	253	149	21	27	13	1
		55%	32%	5%	6%	3%	0%
Public Outside NC	1,597	773	399	209	125	90	1
		48%	25%	13%	8%	6%	0%
Public in NC	1,363	618	490	139	41	69	6
		45%	36%	10%	3%	5%	0%
Subtotal: Exiting WCPSS To Enter Other Schools	5,861	2,911	1,765	607	281	286	15
		50%	30%	10%	5%	5%	0%
Summer Dropouts	360	137	120	75	16	11	1
		38%	33%	21%	4%	3%	0%
Subtotal: Exiting Students Grades K-12	6,221	3,048	1,885	682	297	297	16
		49%	30%	11%	5%	5%	0%
End-Of-Year Graduates	6,843	4,423	1,613	315	334	139	19
		65%	24%	5%	5%	2%	0%
Total Leaving After 2006-07	13,064	7,471	3,498	997	631	436	35
		57%	27%	8%	5%	3%	0%

Demographics of New Students

Students served in the 2007-08 school year can be separated into three groups:

- Students who came into WCPSS from various sources after attending other schools in the 2006-07 school year,
- Students who began 2007-08 after attending WCPSS schools in 2006-07,
- Students in kindergarten.

Table 4 shows the ethnicity of those three groups. As shown, the ethnic composition varies slightly. While White students comprise 53% of students who attended WCPSS in 2006-07 and continued in WCPSS in 2007-08, they comprise 50% of new kindergarten students and 47% of new students entering grades 1-12. Conversely, while Hispanic students comprised 11% of continuing students, they comprise 16% of kindergarten students and 12% 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 2006-07, while the percentage of Black students in kindergarten was slightly lower than the other three groups.

As a result of these shifts, the overall student population is slightly more ethnically diverse in 2007-08 than it was in 2006-07.

Type of Prior School		White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Multiracial	Amer. Indian
Unknown	560	422	59	38	17	24	0
		75%	11%	7%	3%	4%	0%
Home School	249	205	23	6	3	12	0
		82%	9%	2%	1%	5%	0%
Private/Religious School	1,216	757	274	51	72	58	4
		62%	23%	4%	6%	5%	0%
Charters Outside NC	62	19	18	16	7	2	0
		31%	29%	26%	11%	3%	0%
NC Charters	438	169	227	13	13	15	1
		39%	52%	3%	3%	3%	0%
Public Outside NC	4,333	1,901	1,036	723	418	239	16
		44%	24%	17%	10%	6%	0%
Public In NC	1,660	557	795	147	61	85	15
		34%	48%	9%	4%	5%	1%
Subtotal: New Students Grades 1-12	8,518	4,030	2,432	994	591	435	36
		47%	29%	12%	7%	5%	0%
WCPSS Students From The 2006-07 School Year	114,741	60,974	30,743	12,120	5,990	4,614	300
		53%	27%	11%	5%	4%	0%
Kindergarten (20th Day)	11,289	5,675	2,468	1,816	671	636	23
		50.0%	22%	16%	6%	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.

Table 5					
20th Day Membership By Ethnicity and Gender					
		2006-07		2007-08	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
American Indian	Male	159	0.12%	178	0.13%
	Female	172	0.13%	177	0.13%
Asian	Male	3,243	2.53%	3,634	2.71%
	Female	3,215	2.51%	3,598	2.69%
Hispanic	Male	6,645	5.19%	7,623	5.69%
	Female	6,435	5.02%	7,223	5.39%
Black	Male	17,121	13.37%	17,847	13.32%
	Female	17,165	13.40%	17,613	13.14%
White	Male	35,183	27.47%	35,995	26.86%
	Female	33,750	26.35%	34,455	25.71%
Multi-Racial	Male	2,446	1.91%	2,829	2.11%
	Female	2,538	1.98%	2,830	2.11%
Total	Male	64,797	50.59%	68,106	50.82%
	Female	63,275	49.41%	65,896	49.18%
		128,072		134,002	

Summary

Despite the rapid growth in student membership in WCPSS, the overall makeup of the student population changed only slightly. A large majority (63.5%) of new students in grades 1-12 came from U.S. public schools outside Wake County, and a similar majority (60.54%) 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.