

## Students Leaving and Entering WCPSS in 2008-09

Growth and Planning Department

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A comparison of enrollment in Month 1, 2008 with Month 1, 2007 shows a net one-year growth of **3,704** 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 (**60.9% from U.S. schools** and **6.6% from foreign schools**). In addition, the district enrolled more students from private, religious, 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 **844** students left WCPSS at the end of the 2007-08 school year to enter private or religious schools, **1,089** students entered WCPSS from private or religious schools at the start of the 2008-09 school year.
- While **202** students left to enter home schools at the end of 2007-08, **287** entered from home schools at the start of 2008-09.
- While **658** left to enter charter schools at the end of 2007-08, **491** entered from charter schools at the start of 2008-09.
- While **2,909** left to enter other public school systems outside Wake County at the end of 2007-08, **5,208** entered from public schools outside the county, state or US at the start of 2008-09.

Enrollment growth in WCPSS results from a complex pattern of children being enrolled or withdrawn by their parents, both prior to the start of a school year and during the school year.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 2007-08 school year, there were **134,002** students in WCPSS. By the end of the year, total system membership had fallen to **132,518**. However, the changes after the 20th day varied by level with a net gain of **699** students in elementary schools, a net loss of **6** in middle schools, and a net loss of **2,177** students in high schools due to mid-year graduation and dropouts. Between the end of the 2007-08 school year and the beginning of the 2008-09 school year, **6,616** students left the school district and **7,329** graduated. Taking their place were **11,629** kindergarten students and **7,718** new students in grades 1-12. On the 20th day of the 2008-09 school year, there were **137,706** students in WCPSS.

The following statements describe the **7,718** new students who entered our school system in grades 1-12 prior to the 20th day of the 2008-09 school year:

- **507** (6.6%) were from public schools outside the United States;
- **2,993** (38.8%) were from U.S. public schools outside North Carolina;
- **1,708** (22.1%) were from North Carolina public schools outside Wake County;
- **1,089** (14.1%) were from private or religious schools;
- **491** (6.4%) were from charter schools;
- **287** (3.7%) were from home schools;
- **643** (8.3%) prior school unknown;
- **3,595** (46.6%) were White, **2,335** (30.3%) were Black, **771** (10.0%) were Hispanic, **565** (7.3%) were Asian, **421** (5.5%) were Multi-Racial, and **31** (0.4%) were American Indian.

The following statements describe the **6,616** students who left the school system after the end of the 2007-08 school year:

- **296** (4.5%) went to public schools outside the United States;
- **1,382** (20.9%) went to U.S. public schools outside North Carolina;
- **1,231** (18.6%) went to North Carolina public schools outside Wake County;
- **844** (12.8%) went to private or religious schools;
- **658** (9.9%) went to charter schools;
- **202** (3.1%) went to home schools;
- **343** (5.2%) were identified as summer dropouts;
- **1,660** (25.1%) went to unknown destination;
- **3,045** (46.0%) were White, **2,116** (32.0%) were Black, **834** (12.6%) were Hispanic, **306** (4.6%) were Asian, **292** (4.4%) were Multi-Racial, and **23** (0.3%) were American Indian.

Table 1 shows the changes in student membership that occurred during the 2007-08 school year, after the 2007-08 school year, and during the 2008-09 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 2007-08 school year and the 20th day of 2008-09.

	Elementary	Middle	High	total
Net Change 20th Day 07-08 to EOY 07-08	699	-6	-2,177	-1,484
Net Change EOY 07-08 to 20th Day 08-09	1,129	952	3,107	5,188
Net Change 20th Day 07-08 to 20th Day 08-09	1,828	946	930	3,704
Net Change 20th Day 08-09 to EOY 08-09	577	-18	-1,970	-1,411

Student membership at the end of the 2007-08 school year	<b>132,518</b>	
Source or Destination of Students	Number Entering The 2008-09 School Year by The 20 <sup>th</sup> Day (1-12)	Number Leaving After The 2007-08 School Year (K-12)
Students who graduated in May 2008		7,329
Students who were in WCPSS before and after summer break (1-12)	118,944	
Kindergarten students (20th Day)	11,629	
NC public schools outside WCPSS	1,708	1,231
Public schools outside NC	3,500	1,678
Private or religious schools	1,089	844
Charter schools	491	658
Home schools	287	202
Prior school unknown/ unknown destination	643	1,660
Identified as summer dropouts		343
Left WCPSS within the first 20 days of 08-09		721
Student membership on the 20th day of 2008-09	<b>137,706</b>	

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 2007-08 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.

<b>Table 3 Ethnicity of Students Leaving WCPSS After The End Of 2007-08 School Year</b>							
	<b>Total</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Multi-Racial</b>	<b>American Indian/Alaskan Native</b>
Unknown	1,660	463	787	287	45	69	9
		28%	47%	17%	3%	4%	1%
Home Schools	202	153	21	8	5	15	0
		76%	10%	4%	2%	7%	0%
Private or Religious Schools	844	628	116	23	49	27	1
		74%	14%	3%	6%	3%	0%
Charter Schools	658	452	142	24	13	26	1
		69%	22%	4%	2%	4%	0%
Public Outside NC	1,678	736	379	320	149	86	8
		44%	23%	19%	9%	5%	0%
Public in NC	1,231	529	514	97	32	56	3
		43%	42%	8%	3%	5%	0%
Subtotal: Exiting WCPSS To Enter Other Schools	6,273	2,961	1,959	759	293	279	22
Summer Dropouts	343	84	157	75	13	13	1
		24%	46%	22%	4%	4%	0%
Subtotal: Exiting Students Grades K-12	6,616	3,045	2,116	834	306	292	23
		46.0%	32.0%	12.6%	4.6%	4.4%	0.3%
End-Of-Year Graduates	7,329	4,518	1,846	366	390	196	13
		62%	25%	5%	5%	3%	0%
Total Leaving After 2007-08	13,945	7,563	3,962	1,200	696	488	36
		54%	28%	9%	5%	3%	0%

### Demographics of New Students

Students served in the 2008-09 school year can be separated into three groups:

- Students who came into WCPSS from various sources after attending other schools in the 2007-08 school year,
- Students who began 2008-09 after attending WCPSS schools in 2007-08,
- Students in kindergarten.

Table 4 shows the ethnicity of those three groups. As shown, the ethnic composition varies slightly. While White students comprise 52% of students who attended WCPSS in 2007-08 and continued in WCPSS in 2008-09, they comprise 51% of new kindergarten students and 47% of new students entering grades 1-12. Conversely, while Hispanic students comprised 11% of continuing students, they comprise 15% of kindergarten students and 10% 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 2007-08, 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 2008-09 than it was in 2007-08.

**Table 4**  
**Ethnicity of Students Entering WCPSS Prior To The 20th Day 2008-09, Grade 1-12**

Type of Prior School		White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Multiracial	Amer. Indian
Unknown	643	427	100	48	36	30	2
		66%	16%	7%	6%	5%	0%
Home School	287	217	37	8	8	13	4
		76%	13%	3%	3%	5%	1%
Private/Religious School	1,089	702	217	55	63	49	3
		64%	20%	5%	6%	4%	0%
Charters Outside NC	47	14	25	1	3	4	0
		30%	53%	2%	6%	9%	0%
NC Charters	444	137	257	26	15	8	1
		31%	58%	6%	3%	2%	0%
Public Outside NC	3,500	1,485	903	488	385	226	13
		42%	26%	14%	11%	6%	0%
Public In NC	1,708	613	796	145	55	91	8
		36%	47%	8%	3%	5%	0%
Subtotal: New Students Grades 1-12	7,718	3,595	2,335	771	565	421	31
		47%	30%	10%	7%	5%	0%
WCPSS Students From The 2007-08 School Year (K-12)	118,944	61,983	31,314	13,409	6,689	5,230	319
		52%	26%	11%	6%	4%	0%
Kindergarten (20th Day)	11,629	5,930	2,502	1,785	721	659	32
		51%	22%	15%	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.

		2007-08		2008-09	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
American Indian	Male	178	0.13%	191	0.14%
	Female	177	0.13%	191	0.14%
Asian	Male	3,634	2.71%	3991	2.90%
	Female	3,598	2.69%	3962	2.88%
Hispanic	Male	7,623	5.69%	8102	5.88%
	Female	7,223	5.39%	7790	5.66%
Black	Male	17,847	13.32%	18181	13.20%
	Female	17,613	13.14%	17744	12.89%
White	Male	35,995	26.86%	36434	26.46%
	Female	34,455	25.71%	34848	25.31%
Multi-Racial	Male	2,829	2.11%	3111	2.26%
	Female	2,830	2.11%	3161	2.30%
Total	Male	68,106	50.82%	70,010	50.84%
	Female	65,896	49.18%	67,696	49.16%
		134,002		137,706	

### Summary

Despite the rapid growth in student membership in WCPSS, the overall makeup of the student population changed only slightly. A large majority (60.9%) of new students in grades 1-12 came from U.S. public schools outside Wake County, and a similar majority (44.0%) 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, or home schools was larger than the number leaving the district to attend those types of schools with the exception of charter schools. Only slight differences were found in the ethnicity of students entering and leaving the school district across the two years.