

# Historical Highlights Magnet Programs Wake County Public School System

## **1975**

Nearly \$1 million in federal funds are cut from the Raleigh City Schools by the Office of Civil Rights related to desegregation issues.

The Boards of Education of the Raleigh City and Wake County school districts vote merger into effect to begin July 1, 1976, despite a non-binding community referendum several years earlier in which voters of the two school districts voted against the idea of merger by more than a two-to-one margin.

Factors influencing the Board of Education's decision:

- White flight from the older, more urban sections of Raleigh.
- The well-documented downward spiral of urban decay occurring cross the country was beginning in Raleigh.
- Raleigh was in danger of becoming racially polarized.
- The likelihood of civil rights action and court mandated desegregation if action not taken locally.
- Equity in educational programs.

The General Assembly of North Carolina approves legislation enabling the creation of the merged system on June 25, 1975.

## **1976**

Dr. John Murphy appointed as superintendent to lead the system through merger.

Approximately 20,000 Raleigh City students and approximately 33,000 Wake County students join to form the Wake County Public School System to create a district of approximately 53,000 students.

## **1977-1978**

A merged student assignment plan goes into effect. Along with the reorganization efforts, staff members of all levels are actively encouraged to put new instructional programs into place. Within 24 months of merger, magnet programs had been introduced in the district. The first magnet schools are a self-contained gifted and talented program introduced at Hunter Elementary and a before-and-after school day care program (extended day) introduced at Phillips.

## **1980**

Magnet programs expand to include five schools

GT: Apex, Hunter, Ligon, and Enloe  
Extended Day: Phillips

## **1981**

Dr. Walter Marks becomes superintendent of the Wake County Public School System. Student assignment issues and educational programs remain as high priorities.

## **1982**

Dr. Marks proposes a Schools of Choice program of educational options to the Wake County Board of Education as a cornerstone of a plan for quality education and integration on January 15, 1982.

Major problems/needs for which the plan was developed:

- Under/over utilization of schools
- Inequity of educational opportunity
- Racial balances
- Improving educational programs
- Providing more parental participation through a program of optional schools
- A long-range plan for student assignment and facility use

The Board of Education adopts the Schools of Choice program on March 11, 1982, which significantly expands the magnet programs network. The list that follows does not show the programs/sites that were originally recommended in March 1982, but shows the configuration of schools that resulted during the development period from March 1982 to August 1982 when these programs opened.

### ***Gifted and Talented***

Elementary: Apex, Baucom, Conn, Carver, Fuller, Fuquay, Hunter, Lincoln Heights, Powell, Underwood, Wake Forest, Washington, Wendell, and Zebulon

Middle: Ligon and Martin

### ***Classical Studies***

Elementary: Bugg, Lacy, and Root

Middle: Carnage and Carroll

### ***Extended Day***

Elementary: Combs, Fuller, Joyner, Olds, and Phillips

### ***International***

Elementary: Poe and Wiley

### ***Magnet High School***

Magnet High School: Enloe

(A total of five programs directly affecting 28 schools)

## **1983-1984**

Daniels Middle School is added to the magnet programs network with a gifted and talented theme.

Phillips School closes at the end of the year as a K-5 extended day magnet school.

## **1984-1985**

Dr. Robert Bridges is appointed superintendent.

A director of magnet programs position is established, and Peggy Churn is named to fill the position.

## **1985-1986**

In June 1986, the school system is awarded \$3.8 million for the following two years from the federal Magnet Schools Assistance Program. The project is designed to revitalize magnet programs with additional resources, new/revise curricula, staff development, and evaluation.

## **1986-1987**

Carnage Classical Studies Middle School opens as Carnage Gifted and Talented Magnet Middle School.

Wake County Public School System receives an award of \$3,800,000 from the Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant for all GT schools.

## **1987-1988**

A task force is appointed to investigate year-round education.

Baucom Elementary is demagnetized and opens as a traditional K-5 elementary school, following the reorganization from K-2 to a K-5 program.

Fuquay-Varina Elementary is demagnetized and opens as a traditional K-5 elementary school and simultaneously moved into a new facility.

## **1988-1989**

Daniels Middle School is demagnetized and program components were phased out over several years.

Following a task force study, Poe Elementary added a technology component to become Poe International/Technology Magnet Elementary School effective the following year. An AG program enhancement also occurs at Poe.

## **1989-1990**

Dr. Robert Wentz is appointed superintendent.

Kingswood Elementary School opens as a single-track year-round K-5 program. It was the first in North Carolina and first year-round magnet in the nation.

Primary functions of the magnet programs office were redistributed throughout the Programs Branch, and the magnet director's position was eliminated.

## **1990-1991**

A magnet steering committee comprised of 25 school and community representatives studies ways to enhance and expand magnet programs and proposes recommendations to the Board of Education. Three of 14 recommendations were adopted:

1. 250-300 additional gifted and talented magnet middle school seats over 3 years were approved.
2. Joyner Elementary is designated as Joyner Language Arts/Communications Magnet.
3. Crosstimbers (Morrisville) is approved as a four-track year-round school with no base population.

Magnet parameters were established related to Senate Bill 2 and site-based decision making.

Lacy Classical Studies Magnet Elementary School and Carroll Classical Studies Magnet Middle School are demagnetized. A three-year phase-out plan is developed for Lacy and a two-year phase-out plan is developed for Carroll.

## **1991-1992**

The Kingswood staff and student body moves to Morrisville Elementary school which opens as a K-5 year-round multi-track program.

The administrative Magnet Enhancement Committee recommends the re-creation of a magnet programs office and the position of magnet director is reinstated. Pat Kinlaw is named to fill the position.

An AG Basics program is added to the gifted and talented program at Fuller GT Elementary School.

## **1992-1993**

The Academically Gifted Basics program is expanded at the middle school level and added to the Gifted and Talented program at Carnage Middle School.

In June 1993, the Wake County Public School System is awarded a \$1.3 million grant for each of two-years from the federal government's Magnet Schools Assistance Program. The two-year project targeted eight magnet schools: Bugg, Conn, Fuller, Hunter, Poe, Powell, Ligon, and Enloe.

Durant Road Elementary, West Lake Elementary, and West Lake Middle Schools open as multi-track year-round programs.

## **1993-1994**

Durant Road Year-Round Middle School begins with 6<sup>th</sup> grade students housed on the elementary campus.

Wake County Public School System receives \$2,452,204. from the Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant for programs in the following schools: Bugg, Conn, Fuller, Hunter, Poe, Powell, Ligon, and Enloe.

## **1994-1995**

Durant Road Year-Round Middle School expands to include the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades.

Oak Grove Year-Round Magnet Elementary opens at Davis Drive Elementary using the facility until the Oak Grove facility is completed.

## **1995-1996**

Wake County Public School System receives \$6,256,425 from the Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant for Bugg, Poe, Carnage, Ligon, Enloe, and to plan and establish a magnet program at a new high school, Southeast Raleigh.

Lincoln Heights Magnet School changes to the Community Model theme.

Program needs and options for East Millbrook Middle School are explored through committees at the school including staff and parents.

International Baccalaureate Programme at Enloe is approved and the application process begins.

Training for Montessori teachers continues at Poe with funding coming from the Magnet Schools Assistance Program to implement Poe International Montessori School.

Bugg changes from Classical Magnet to Bugg Creative Arts and Science Magnet School.

Enloe Enterprises, Inc., a magnet grant initiative, is established through a student-operated enterprise whose purpose is to create real world connections between school and the world of work.

## **1996-1997**

A Magnet Programs Study is completed by Dr. David Bennett including possible strategies related to changes and expansion of the magnet network.

East Millbrook is recommended to become a magnet school with the combination of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme and an arts integration approach to be phased in over a three-year period.

Caroline Massengill is named as the magnet director.

## **1997-1998**

Carver Elementary is rebuilt on Liles Dean Road and opens as a Pk-5 school. They are demagnetized and begin the transition to the modified calendar.

Southeast Raleigh High School opens on a modified calendar as Center for Accelerated Studies: Math, Science, and Technology.

The Magnet Schools Assistance Program proposal is explored to determine strategies, concepts, and programs.

## **1998-1999**

Wake County Public School System receives \$7,493,934. from the Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant for Conn, Fuller, Carnage, East Millbrook, and Year-Round Community-Based Accelerated Learning Centers.

A Magnet Schools' Status Report is presented to the Board of Education. Challenges affecting the success and continuation of the magnet program are addressed.

Zebulon Middle School is recommended as a new GT magnet middle school with an emphasis on math, science, and technology.

The Year-Round Community-Based Accelerated Learning Center (CBALC) program is Recommended to expand to other elementary year-round sites to target students in minority and low socio-economic areas.

An updated status report of magnet programs is presented to the Board of Education. This report includes applicants to program magnets, recruitment strategies, building capacities and space utilization at year-round schools, equity magnet information, and future growth and planning.

Magnet programs "Guiding Principles" are approved by the Board of Education.

- Utilization of schools
- Equity of educational opportunity
- Diverse student population
- Program improvement
- Parental participation and choice

## **1999-2000**

The Magnet Resource Center opens in a building behind Millbrook Elementary School as a center for recruitment. The Center houses magnet curriculum, magnet grant information, and specific program descriptions and displays.

Adams Year-Round Elementary School and Lufkin Year-Round Middle School open in western Wake County.

Millbrook Elementary, Farmington Woods Elementary, Daniels Middle School, and Broughton High School are recommended to become magnet schools with an International Baccalaureate Programme theme. Broughton will have years 4 and 5 of the Middle Years Programme in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades and will begin planning for the IB Diploma Programme for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

Wilburn Year-Round Elementary School is designated for magnet status as year-round magnet school.

Douglas Elementary School is designated for magnet status as a Creative Arts and Science magnet school (replication of the theme at Bugg).

Combs Extended Day Magnet Elementary School is designated to revise its theme to include the leadership and science focus. The new name is Combs Leadership and Extended Day Magnet School.

Olds Extended Day Magnet Elementary School is designated to revisit its theme to include an emphasis on the sciences, humanities, and university partnerships. The new name is Olds University Connections and Extended Day Magnet.

Centennial Campus is designated to be on the modified instructional calendar for the 2000-'01 school year.

Apex Elementary is demagnetized and begins a three year phase-out of its current GT magnet program to a traditional program beginning with the 2000-01 school year.

## **2000-2001**

A status report of magnet programs in the district is presented to the Board of Education. Challenges affecting the success of the magnet program are addressed.

Extended Day magnet theme is designated for elimination due to mounting costs beginning with the 2001-2002 school year. Combs, Olds, and Joyner will retain magnet status with their existing themes.

- Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary School
- Joyner Language Arts/Communications Magnet Elementary School
- Olds University Connections Magnet Elementary School

Brooks Elementary and Moore Square Middle are designated to become magnet schools offering the Museums program beginning with the 2002-2003 school year.

The Magnet Schools Assistance Program proposal is developed to include the following projects:

- Moore Square Museums Magnet Middle School (2002-2003)
- Brooks Museums Magnet Elementary School (2002-2003)
- Joyner Language Explorations Magnet Elementary School (2001-2002)
- Powell GT Magnet Elementary School: Visual and Performing Arts (2001-2002)
- Millbrook Magnet Elementary School: International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (2002-2003)

This proposal is funded for approximately \$7.4 million dollars.

Magnet Feeder patterns are determined, based on theme, to foster program continuation from one level to the next.

## **2002-2003**

Moore Square Museums Magnet Middle School opens in downtown Raleigh as a new school with a museums theme, operating on a modified calendar.

Garner High School and North Garner Middle School are designated as magnet schools offering the IB Middle Years and Diploma Programmes. East Garner Middle School is designated as an equity magnet offering the IB Middle Years Programme to ensure that those students are prepared to enter the IB programme at the high school.

## **2003-2004**

The classical studies theme at Root Magnet Elementary is removed because it is determined that the theme's components are no longer unique in the district. Root is designated as a Leadership magnet school.

The Global Communications theme at Conn begins its phase out due to low application numbers, and the school begins developing the new Active Learning and Technology theme.

The magnet programs department develops the application for the Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant proposal which includes the following schools/themes:

- Conn Active Learning and Technology
- Joyner Center for Spanish Language with the IB Primary Years Programme
- Southeast Raleigh Center for Leadership and Technology
- Enloe GT/IB Center for Humanities, Sciences and the Arts
- North Garner IB Middle Years Programme

## **2004-2005**

The Board of Education reviews magnet programs in a 1½ day worksession in April 2005. New magnet objectives are recommended and the department is asked to create magnetization and demagnetization guidelines. The new Magnet Objectives are:

Magnet Programs will be used to create Healthy Schools throughout the Wake County Public School System through:

- **The utilization of schools** to make optimal use of all facilities
- **Use of choice to help create diverse student populations, increase student achievement and reduce high concentrations of poverty** to promote respect for cultures and beliefs and to enrich the learning experience and achievement
- **The expansion of educational opportunities** to make innovative programs accessible to all students so they can discover and develop gifts and talents
- **Promotion of program innovations that foster system-wide improvement** to raise the standards for the whole district by implementing innovative programs that meet the needs of all students.

The 2004-09 MSAP grant proposal is not funded but the schools included in the proposal begin implementing their new/revised themes with limited local funds.

## **2005-2006**

The Board of Education approves the separation of magnet programs and year-round education to begin in 2006-2007 school year. A new department is created – the Office of Year-Round Education with Caroline Massengill named as the special assistant for that department.

Ken Branch is named Senior Director of Magnet Programs in March of 2006.

## **2006-2007**

Wake Early College of Health and Science opens as a new school on Wake Tech's campus at Wake Med Hospital. It receives funds from the governor's Learn and Earn initiative. It's

application process involves an essay component and the school does not have a base population.

The Board of Education approves the conversion of Forestville Elementary to a magnet school to serve the eastern Wake County area. It also approves the conversion of North Garner Middle school from a traditional calendar to a year-round calendar with the removal of the IB programme because of the difficulty of implementing the IB programme on a year-round schedule and the opening of East Garner as the IB draw magnet middle for the area. Both are to begin with the 2007-2008 school year.

In the spring of 2007, the magnet programs department submits a grant proposal for the Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant. The \$8.3 million grant includes Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School, Garner Magnet High School, and East Garner Magnet Middle School.

## **2007-2008**

In the fall of 2007, WCPSS receives the Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant for Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School, Garner Magnet High School, and East Garner Magnet Middle School.

Board of Education begins a review of magnet programs in the district, and revises the magnet objectives:

*Magnet Programs will be used to create healthy schools throughout the Wake County Public School System by using choice to help:*

- *reduce high concentrations of poverty and support diverse populations*
- *maximize use of school facilities*
- *provide expanded educational opportunities*

As a part of the magnet review, which assessed each school's alignment with the updated Magnet Objectives, the Board of Education removes Equity Magnets from the magnet program.

The Board of Education approves the phase-out of the magnet program at five magnet elementary schools: Forestville, Wake Forest, Root, Olds and Lincoln Heights. These schools phase-out their programs over a three-year period beginning with the 2008-2009 school year.

The Board of Education approves opening Zebulon Magnet Elementary as a draw magnet for the 2008-2009 school and Wendell Magnet Elementary as a draw magnet for the 2009-2010 school year. Wendell changes its theme to Creative Arts and Science Theme. Students presently attending Powell GT Magnet Elementary but who live in the new Zebulon GT draw area are allowed to remain at Powell with kindergarten through 3rd grade having no transportation and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders with transportation.

David Ansbacher was named Senior Director of Magnet Programs in January 2008.

Magnet Programs' program pathways were updated to strengthen program alignment and the magnet selection process.

## **2008-2009**

The Board of Education approved the phase-out of the magnet program at Daniels Middle School and Broughton High School over three years. The Board of Education approves the addition of magnet programs at both Brentwood and Smith Elementary Schools and Millbrook High School.

Brentwood is designated as the district's first elementary School of Engineering program. Smith and Millbrook are designated to offer the International Baccalaureate programs.

## **2009-2010**

In March 2010, a board resolution is passed which directed that "any applicants to an existing "optional choice" assignment shall not be discriminated against based upon economic status in the selection process." As a result, the selection criteria for the 2009-10 magnet and calendar application process no longer include priorities based on socio-economic node or school data, but are only based on capacity.

In May 2010, Policy 6200 Student Assignment is revised. Among other revisions, the term 'diversity' is removed from the policy, and directs staff to base student assignment decisions on Distance, Choice, Stability of Assignment, Facility Utilization, Grade Structure, Alignment with the Magnet Schools Program and Students with Higher Needs. The magnet objectives remain the unrevised.

In April 2010, the Board of Education approves a resolution expressing the Board of Education's commitment to the efforts of voluntary desegregation in support of the MSAP 2010-2013 grant application. WCPSS applies for the Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant in support of Brentwood Magnet School of Engineering, Smith Magnet Elementary and Millbrook Magnet Elementary High. WCPSS is not awarded the grant.