



February 8, 2008

Mr. Howard Lee, Chairman  
North Carolina Board of Education  
6326 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-6326

Dear Chairman Lee:

As a condition by the State Board of Education on January 10, 2008, in approving the class size waivers submitted by the Wake County Public School System, I am responding to your three requests.

- 1) *A detailed description of the actions that WCPSS has taken to notify parents who have students in the 114 classes subject to these waivers, that their students are in classes that do not meet the State's class size requirements, the efforts that WCPSS has made to grant any of those parents' requests to reassign their children from those 114 classes to classes that meet State class size requirements, and an explanation of why any parental request for such a transfer was not granted;*

None. We are not aware of any statutory requirement or policy to notify parents of students who are in classes not meeting State requirements. A survey of the schools for which these waivers were requested determined that while a few principals reported having conversations with individual parents about class size, only one reported that a parent actually requested their child be assigned to a different class. That parent was offered another class option but declined and decided to remain in the original class.

- 2) *A detailed description of the actions that WCPSS has taken and will take during the 2007-08 school year to mitigate the impact of class size overages on students' educational opportunities;*

Schools have used a variety of options to mitigate the impact of class size overages ranging from assigning additional personnel to classes to grouping children differently for the delivery of instruction. Schools have been given the flexibility as to how they can best address this situation while putting the needs of children first. In addition, the school district has allocated more than \$315,000 to provide additional months of employment where specific needs were identified. We will continue to assess and address needs on an individual basis.

- 3) *A detailed corrective action plan which describes how WCPSS will manage to reduce class sizes in the 2008-09 school year to eliminate the overages.*

On Tuesday, February 5, 2008, the Wake County Board of Education approved the student assignment plan for the 2008-09 school year. This plan was designed to accommodate more than 6,000 new students anticipated for the next school year as well as populate three new schools and relieve overcrowding in our existing schools. This plan also takes into consideration the pending case before the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Del Burns, Ed.D.

C: Board of Education