

Wake Education Partnership: Guiding Principles ***Promoting Excellent Public Schools for All***

Wake Education Partnership plays a critical role in helping business leaders, elected officials and educators work toward the common goal of increasing student performance measured against world-class academic standards. We are an independent non-profit dedicated to creating world-class schools in Wake County through business engagement and community involvement.

Wake County's public schools are an economic engine in our community. Student success and school quality directly affect businesses' ability to attract new employees and families. Well-educated graduates are critical additions to the local workforce.

Founded in 1983 by Wake County's business, civic and political leaders, the Partnership has promoted policies, initiated programs, and invested funds that have helped the Wake County Public School System become one of the best school districts in the country.

To help ensure public school quality and student achievement, the Partnership focuses on three primary areas:

- **Promoting Best Practice:** The Partnership works to ensure all students meet or exceed academic standards required by the global business community. We perform comprehensive research to identify best practice and instructional innovation that have enabled students to excel academically and we share this information throughout the community as a blueprint for success.
- **Connecting Resource Partners:** The Partnership works with individuals and organizations that deliver funding and resources to support a world-class school system. We encourage our partners to work in ways that are complementary rather than competitive. When we learn of gaps in required resources, we work with our partners to create effective solutions.
- **Engaging Leaders:** The Partnership engages business leaders, elected officials, educators and other non-profits who serve as "change agents" to improve our public schools and deliver a world-class education for all Wake County students.

For more information about Wake Education Partnership, please visit our web site.
www.wakeedpartnership.org.



Wake Education Partnership Strategic Initiatives 2011-2012

Initiative	Objectives		
	Promoting Best Practice	Connecting Resource Partners	Engaging Leaders
Business and Education Sessions		✓	✓
CFO Advisory Council	✓	✓	✓
Cultural Awareness/Communication (e.g. Pieces of Gold)	✓	✓	
Education Resource Collaborative	✓	✓	✓
Education Summit	✓	✓	✓
Executive Breakfast Series	✓		✓
<i>In Context</i> Newsletter	✓	✓	✓
Learning Walk Series	✓		✓
Public Education Advisory Council	✓		✓
Public Education Research (Best Practice)	✓		✓
Public Education Topic Reviews	✓		✓
Teacher Leadership Grants	✓	✓	
Triangle Leadership Academy	✓		✓
Wake Education Partnership Monthly Newsletter	✓	✓	✓
Wake Leadership Institute	✓		✓

Title	Overview	Purpose	Timeline
Business and Education Sessions	The Partnership facilitates quarterly sessions for area business leaders to meet with the Wake County Public School System superintendent and the superintendent's leadership team.	Sessions provide an opportunity for dialogue between the business community and the school district administration. These sessions promote communication and understanding between the business and education communities, key elements of a world-class school system.	August November February May
CFO Advisory Council	The Partnership's CFO Advisory Council provides WCPSS Superintendent Tony Tata an independent consultative resource for financial matters affecting the Wake School District. The Council is made up of six (6) executive-level individuals with current and/or background experience in the areas of accounting and finance.	WCPSS Superintendent Tony Tata calls upon the Council (as needed) to discuss and receive feedback on budget proposals and financial operations issues within the school district. The Council provides insight to "best financial practices" from the business sector that are applied in a public education environment to generate cost savings and operating efficiencies.	Ongoing
Cultural Awareness / Communication (Pieces of Gold)	Pieces of Gold is more than a showcase of exemplary artistic talent by students throughout the Wake County Public School System. It is a tribute to the value placed on the arts and arts education, and exemplifies the role arts can play in helping students develop cultural awareness. Students appreciate culture and cultural differences through artistic exploration.	Pieces of Gold reflects the Partnership's belief that the arts are a core component of student achievement. Exploration of culture and language helps students communicate effectively and work collaboratively with other students on teams.	Annual - Spring
Education Resource Collaborative	Nonprofits in Wake addressing education issues are invited to meet and learn of each others' work, perhaps annually. A few key organizations meet more often to identify opportunities for collaboration.	The Education Resource Collaborative provides an avenue for nonprofits in Wake to be knowledgeable of the work others are doing to support education. This enables collaboration to promote "best practices" in our classrooms and professional development for teachers and school leaders.	Ongoing
Education Summit	The chosen theme or educational issue reflects the Partnership's work or strategic initiatives. The annual Friend of Education Award is presented. When appropriate, the Vernon Malone Lifetime Achievement Award is presented. We release our 2011-2012 Annual Report, and kickoff our Annual Campaign. The 2011 Education Summit is September 13, 2011.	The 2011 Education Summit focuses on local, state, and national efforts to close the global achievement gap and prepare students for the current and future competitive workforce.	Spring: Determine/Acquire speaker Spring/Summer: Design work July/August: Open Registration August: Finalize registration/event details September: Event
Executive Breakfast Series	Local business executives are convened with the assistance of our major donors. These sessions provide information on current education issues.	Sessions position the Partnership as a go-to source of credible, neutral education information. Sessions are opportunities to identify concerns of business leaders who have an interest in a world-class school system.	Ongoing
In Context Newsletter	The Partnership produces a bi-weekly e-publication that highlights current education news relevant to Wake County. Topics primarily cover local education issues but also include those on a state and national level.	In Context provides coverage of the WCPSS Board of Education activity as well as other timely education information.	Follows WCPSS Board of Education meetings, regularly scheduled for every two weeks.
Learning Walk Series	The Partnership coordinates Learning Walks to highlight schools identified as making use of best practices in Wake County.	The Learning Walk Series provides an opportunity for the business community and policy makers to see best practice at work in Wake County classrooms.	Ongoing - goal is 3 per calendar year

Title	Overview	Purpose	Timeline
Public Education Advisory Council	The recipients of the last five Principal, Assistant Principal, and Teacher of the Year awards in WCPSS are invited to participate. Currently, the WCPSS Principal and Teacher of the Year serve for one year in an ex officio position on the Partnership's Board of Directors. Many have stated that they feel they are just getting to know the Partnership when their time on our Board ends.	This group provides insight and real-time, in-the-trenches perspective on the Partnership's work.	Ongoing
Public Education Research (Best Practice)	The Partnership researches, identifies and profiles best practice in education. Wake County schools demonstrating best practice are identified for potential Learning Walks.	Best practice research identifies those practices we believe best prepare students to be successful in achieving world-class academic standards.	Ongoing
Public Education Topic Reviews	The Partnership releases occasional white papers or topic reviews about issues of general interest to the community. These are published on our website and released to our email list. Topics are determined by staff and may include: student assignment, school funding, test score releases, Teacher Working Conditions Survey results, school finance.	These reviews are longer than newsletter summaries and allow readers to understand a subject in greater depth.	Ongoing
Teacher Leadership Grants	Since 1983, Wake Education Partnership has been awarding grants to Wake County public school teachers and support personnel through the teacher grant program. The grants provide opportunities for teachers to challenge themselves and their students in new and exciting ways.	Current focus of Teacher Leadership Grants supports the work of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and innovative instruction projects. This alignment increases the relevance of the grants program; it meets a growing need of teachers within WCPSS.	January - online preparation February - send electronic announcement March - application window open, conduct grants workshop(s) May - scoring June - announcements, reception
Triangle Leadership Academy	TLA is a public-private partnership to provide leadership development and capacity-building for school and system leaders in five local districts.	TLA develops effective teachers and leaders for world-class schools in Wake County.	Ongoing
Wake Education Partnership Monthly Newsletter	The Partnership produces a monthly e-newsletter that highlights news about the Partnership.	The Partnership's monthly newsletter focuses on the work and news of the Partnership.	Monthly
Wake Leadership Institute	The Partnership provides candidate forums for those interested in running for the Wake County Public School System Board of Education and Wake County Commission. These are held in the months preceding the fall election.	Forums build relationships with future elected leaders of the Wake County Public School System. They also provide candidates with the history, profile and trends of the Wake County Public School System.	Yearly Summer - preparation August/September - program offered