



Funding for Growth and Excellence in Wake County Schools
A Resolution of the Wake Education Partnership Executive Committee

May 31, 2005

Whereas Wake County enjoys and significantly benefits from a national reputation for excellence in its public school system;

Whereas Wake County's reputation for excellence in its public schools rests in part on our community's progress towards a series of ambitious, locally-established goals for student achievement through Goal 2003 and Goal 2008;

Whereas our state and federal educational accountability systems (North Carolina ABCs and federal No Child Left Behind Act) expect continued improvements in student achievement;

Whereas Wake County is experiencing exceptional population growth, currently growing at a rate of 23,000 new residents a year;

Whereas the Wake County Public School System has added 9,600 new students over the past two years combined and anticipates the additional enrollment of more than 5,000 new students for the 2005-2006 school year, including increasing numbers of students with specialized, and more costly, learning needs;

Whereas both exceptional countywide population growth and state class size reduction mandates have generated a growing need for additional classrooms and schools and for resources necessary to operate, including recruiting new teachers, principals and support staff; paying their salaries and benefits; and adding furniture, equipment and supplies to fill the new classrooms and schools;

Therefore, be it resolved that Wake Education Partnership strongly encourages the governmental bodies responsible for funding in Wake County to support increased capital and operational funding for Wake County Public Schools in order to:

- compensate adequately and appropriately for inflation and for expected growth in student enrollment, including increasing numbers of high-needs students;
- ensure that our community is able to recruit, retain, and support highly-qualified teachers, principals, and support staff;
- meet state mandates;
- ensure continued progress towards Goal 2008;
- meet the expectations of the North Carolina ABC accountability system and federal No Child Left Behind Act; and
- maintain and ensure Wake County's national reputation of excellence in our public schools; and be it further

Resolved that Wake Education Partnership will send a copy of this resolution to the Wake County Board of Education, the Wake County Board of Commissioners, the elected North Carolina legislators representing Wake County, and the twelve municipalities in Wake County.

Lynne G. Garrison, Chair
Board of Directors

W. Robert Saffold
President