

Resolution Establishing Board Directive for Community Based Assignments

Whereas the Wake County Board of Education holds a strong commitment to the highest educational results for ALL children in an effort to reach their full potential and better our community.

Whereas ALL children regardless of race, creed, economic status, or nationality are capable of high academic achievement when provided instruction of rigor and relevance. The utilization of objective data driven decisions better support these efforts above and beyond subjective and interpretive classification and profiling of students.

Whereas ALL children, families, schools, teachers, and neighborhoods are collective stakeholders that benefit from a strong sense of community and a high quality education; recognizing that proximity affects opportunities for engagement of all stakeholders.

Whereas stability and continuity play a critical role in the positive development and support of our children, families, and communities. Within a framework of stability providing logical feeder patterns with limited disruptions in child placement, families should be provided with reasonable application options for their assignments pending first capacity and utilization of local facilities.

Whereas extensive growth over the past two decades has resulted in our existing node based assignment modeling to require numerous adjustments that have compounded over the years only to be challenged to meet demand and efficiency. Further with the expiration of the current Board approved three year assignment plan set to expire in 2012, a new plan will need to be implemented.

Whereas the Wake County School Board supports community based assignments. The alignment of these assignments with the existing zone based management tools of the Wake County Public School System, such as but not limited to Transportation Services, Facilities Maintenance and Management, and Staff Leadership would produce a more efficient and cost effective operations.

Be it hereby resolved that the Wake County Board of Education commits to establishing Community Assignment Zones. A zone based assignment model will be developed during the next 9 – 15 months with input from our community stakeholders (as noted above), WCPSS staff, and other government planning and zoning officials.

The final approved model by the Board of Education must include:

- A multi-year transition plan that limits impact on student re-assignment and ensure program equity per zone.
- A plan that will be respectful of our history as a community and an institution, while be innovative and mindful of future growth.
- A plan that ensures a commitment to a high quality education for ALL children
- Consistent and logical feeder patterns with a defined plan for “optional choice” assignment opportunities. These opportunities will highlight strong support for high quality year-round and magnet schools as viable options for families, while planning for a vocational and alternative school as well.
- A plan that is effective and efficient in the utilization of our facilities and fleet.
- A plan that establishes better alignment of internal management systems and functions.

- A strategy that supports and promotes high functioning and engaged communities.
- A plan to support families and keep siblings from being separated by tracks or school without parental consent.

In the interim, the Wake County Public Schools will remain engaged in the Board approved three year assignment plan. When considered appropriate, approved adjustments to the existing plan will occur in accordance with past practices on an individual basis, including node adjustments, calendar conversions, and school designations. Decisions regarding these adjustments should take into account the future planning directive underway.

Be it further resolved that effective immediately

- Board level committees, all WCPSS departments, along with all other committees, are directed to prepare constructive suggestions to support the development of the above noted transition, and whenever possible be mindful in their approach to decision making that could impact these future directives.
- Prior to June 30, 2010 the Growth and Planning Department and the Instructional Services Division (including a separate plan for the Research and Evaluation Department) shall establish and present a transition plan to the Board of Education that will utilize non-discriminatory objective data driven criteria, tools, and practices over existing subjective methods. All plans should include short term (within 12 months) and long term (up to 3 years) action items with clearly defined benchmarks.
- Any applicants to a pre-established “optional choice” assignment shall not be discriminated against due to race, creed, economic status, or nationality.