

Wake Education Partnership

Monthly Newsletter

September 2011



Steve Parrott

percent

A Message From Our President

On October 12, Wake Education Partnership will be hosting our 2011 Education Summit based on the theme "Creating Opportunities for Closing the Global Achievement Gap." At last year's meeting, we heard from Dr. Tony Wagner about the global achievement gap affecting the United States and the challenges that presents for our public education system. At this year's [Education Summit](#), we will turn to what is being done to create opportunities to close those gaps.

I recently finished reviewing an [excellent study](#) entitled "Globally Challenged: Are U.S. Students Ready to Compete?" prepared under the auspices of the Harvard Program on Education Policy and Governance. The study was released in August 2011 and focuses on each state's international standing in math and reading. My intent is not to summarize the study in this abbreviated space, but to share several thought-provoking statistics and findings regarding math proficiency.

U.S. students in the graduating Class of 2011, with a 32 percent proficiency rate in math, came in 32nd among nations that participated in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA).

North Carolina had a proficiency rate in math of 34.5 percent. (24th in the U.S.)

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Election Day is Oct. 11

Unsure who is running in your school board district this fall? Unsure what district you even live in?

The Partnership has created a one-stop [web page](#) that offers you links to the county Board of Elections, candidates' web pages, district maps and more. WRAL.COM also has a nice [interactive site](#) that contains candidate questionnaires and recent news coverage.

These sites do just about everything for you except vote. Take the long way to work and stop at the polls Oct. 11

and was significantly outscored by 21 nations. Note that Massachusetts has a proficiency rate in math of 50.7 percent and ranks first in the United States, but is significantly out-performed by six nations globally.

The runner-up state is Minnesota at 43 percent. From a global standpoint, Shanghai tops the list with a 75 percent math proficiency rate. Other high-achieving nations include Singapore, Hong Kong, Korea, Finland, Taiwan, Switzerland, Japan, Canada and the Netherlands with math proficiency rates above 50 percent.

While the study provides information on student performance in reading and math, the primary concern is the relative performance of U.S. students in math.

Prior research has identified numeracy or math skills as primary determinants of advances in a nation's economic productivity. Increasing the percentage of proficient students to the levels attained in Canada and Korea would significantly increase GDP growth rates per capita and, according to the study, could translate to as much as trillion dollars a year in economic growth. Those who say student math performance doesn't matter are clearly wrong.

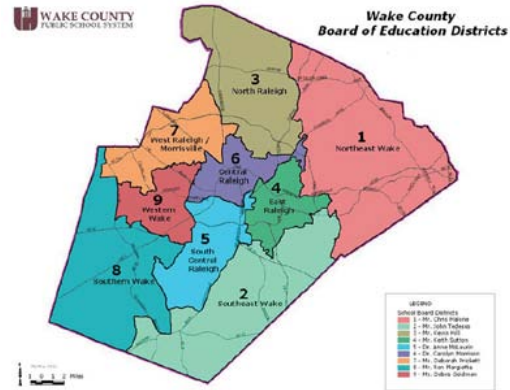
I would strongly encourage you to review the Harvard study. We expect similar themes to be addressed at the upcoming [Education Summit](#) where our panelists will discuss the opportunities for global competitiveness being created in Wake County and throughout North Carolina.



[Teacher Leadership Grants](#)

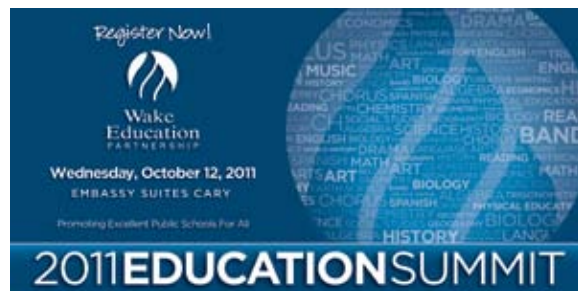
[2010-2011 Grant Outcomes](#)

For the next few months we will



Annual Education Summit
Oct. 12, 2011 7:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Reserve your seat today!



Join Wake Education Partnership as we host our 2011 Education Summit at the Embassy Suites Cary, October 12th from 7:30 to 10 a.m..

Following last year's presentation about the global achievement gaps facing our students, we have brought together a highly-respected panel to address how they are creating opportunities to close those gaps.

Confirmed panelists are SAS CEO **Jim Goodnight**, NCSU Chancellor **Randy Woodson**, Wake School Superintendent **Tony Tata** and VIF CEO **David Young**. The moderator for the event will be NC Technology Association CEO **Brooks Raiford**.

The summit will also include this year's

highlight outcomes from the 2010-2011 Teacher Leadership Grants.

Data Differentiation Through Professional Learning Communities

At Yates Mill Elementary, Cathy Kimble and her colleagues used weekly Professional Learning Team time to analyze student data and create targeted goals for reading, math, and writing. Increases of 6-10% were realized on reading and math End-of-Grade test for grades 3, 4, and 5. Additionally, a change in the master schedule for the 2011-2012 school year will provide intervention time for all grade levels to target specific student needs.

Teacher Leadership Grants are designed to promote effective teaching and improve student achievement through professional learning communities and instructional innovation.

You can support Teacher Leadership Grants with an investment in this program. For more information, email [Julie Crain](mailto:Julie.Crain) or contact her at 821-7609.



Upcoming Events

Hilburn Drive Elementary - Online Survey

An [online survey](#) debuting Saturday, Sept. 17, on the Wake County Public School System website is soliciting community feedback on an innovative K-8 concept proposed for Hilburn Drive Elementary School beginning with the 2012-13 school

presentation of the **Vernon Malone Friend of Education Award** and remarks from the Partnership's Annual Fundraising Campaign Chair **Frank Daniels, Jr.**

Join hundreds of business leaders, educators and policy makers at this premier event. [More information](#) is available at our web site about advertising opportunities, sponsorships, tables sales and tickets.

Partnership launches 2011-12 Annual Campaign

A special thank you to Frank Daniels, Jr. for his willingness to serve as chairman of Wake Education Partnership's Annual Campaign for Public Education.

The six-week campaign, which began Sept. 19, is the Partnership's primary fundraising effort to sustain our work throughout the year.

The Partnership's goal is to secure pledges from each of our current investors during that time. In addition, we hope to broaden our base of support throughout the community.

Money raised during the campaign is used in part to pay for classroom grants, our regular and special publications and forums that help educate and convene a wide range of people from school board candidates to business leaders.

We encourage you to [invest in the Partnership](#) as we work toward the common goal of increasing student performance measured against world-class academic standards.

In Their Words: Why The Partnership Matters

year.

The [survey](#) is intended for Hilburn Drive parents, parents of rising kindergartners and parents of students at nearby schools who would be able to choose Hilburn under the proposed Wake County Student Assignment Plan. Those schools include Leesville, Brier Creek and Sycamore Creek elementary schools.

Community Information Session - Draft Student Assignment Plan September 21, 2011

Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council Seeks New Members
The Wake County Public School System has added a ninth community information meeting about the [draft student assignment proposal](#). The meeting will be held in the Brier Creek Elementary cafeteria from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wed., Sept. 21.

Members of the WCPSS Student Assignment Task Force will provide updates on the proposal's development, answer questions and gather community feedback.

Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council Seeks New Members

The Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council (SPAC) is seeking [applications](#) for new members. SPAC is a diverse group of approximately 21 engaged and informed parents who represent the voice of Wake County parents at the Superintendent's Summits.

The Summit Meetings are held four times each school year for six hours each; council members must be available to attend all four Summits. A member's length of term is 2 years. Applications are due by September 30.

The Partnership added a new feature to its home page this spring that provides visitors a chance to read what others have to say about our work.

We will highlight some of those comments in this space each month, but we also encourage you to [visit our site](#) to see what others have to say and learn more about our work with Wake County's schools. Please feel free to send us an [email](#) letting us know what you think.

"What amazing work your organization is performing for Wake County students! I found many connections in my philosophy of education with Wake Education Partnership! I'm honored and excited to support your efforts in any and every way!"

**Rene' Herrick
2009 Teacher of the Year
Wake Schools**



In Context

An independent review of school issues for business leaders, elected officials and the education community in Wake County.

*Provided free by Wake Education
Partnership*

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Our Cornerstone Investors

The following have invested in the work of the Partnership at \$10,000 and above. We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them and want you to know who they are.

AT&T
Bank of America
BB&T
Capitol Broadcasting Company
GlaxoSmithKline
Golden Corral
Goodnight Educational Foundation
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
Lifetouch
News & Observer
Progress Energy
RBC Bank
Rex Healthcare
SAS
SunTrust Bank
Time Warner Cable
Wachovia, a Wells Fargo Company



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Welcome! We hope you find the information and links in this publication helpful. To find out more about us:

Visit our web site

Join our mailing list

Invest in our work

View our profile on **LinkedIn**

By the numbers...

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A few years back the Partnership published an annual digest titled *Quality Matters*. Most of the data found in the publication can now be easily collected online, but we thought it might still be appreciated if we offered a couple of facts and figures in each newsletter.

We hope the information provides a relatively painless way to understand the numbers that define the 18th largest school district in the country.

Recent [headlines](#) reported that Wake's graduating seniors in 2011 posted SAT scores well above state and national averages once again. First, congratulations to last year's seniors! But there is almost always more to understand if you look at school data over a longer period of time.

While much has changed with the SAT in the past 20 years, in terms of both the rules governing the exam and the public's interest in results, a look back offers the following information. As always, feel free to [contact us](#) if you have questions.

Reporting Year	Math	Verbal	Total	Participation Rate(%)
1991	508	499	1007	75
2001	534	520	1054	79
2006	544	522	1066	77
2009	548	526	1074	64
2011	544	521	1065	76

Source: NC Dept of Public Instruction

Please contact our [staff](#) at 821.7609 if you have any questions about our work or if you wish to find out how you can invest in public education through the Partnership.

Join our mailing list

Invest in our work
