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## Fact Sheet

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### Fairness and Equity

#### *Wake County Needs Strong Public Schools*

- ✓ The North Carolina Constitution Article IX, section 2, subsection (1) provides for a uniform system of free public schools “wherein equal opportunities shall be provided for all students.”
- ✓ North Carolina guarantees public education yet in 2006, North Carolina ranked 44th in the nation in per pupil spending. The national average was \$9,963 per pupil, compared to \$7,835 per pupil in North Carolina. (Education Week Quality Counts 2009)
- ✓ Equal educational opportunities for children are the foundation of a just society and a healthy democracy.
- ✓ Public schools give every child a chance to succeed in life and contribute to society, regardless of their family’s income level, race, ethnicity, or religion.
- ✓ Racial segregation undermines achievement. Decades of experience and social scientific research have demonstrated that schools segregated by race and/or socioeconomic status are not equal. They are not equal in terms of resources, quality of teachers, student-teacher ratios, parental involvement, PTA involvement, and most of all student achievement.
- ✓ In addition, high poverty schools in particular have more discipline problems, more crime and drugs, and more difficulty hiring and retaining teachers and principals.
- ✓ An abandonment of the diversity policy in Charlotte/Mecklenburg has affected enrollment in public schools. Despite having a larger population, Mecklenburg County has fewer students in public school than Wake County and has a 33 percent higher enrollment in its private schools than Wake County.
- ✓ A sound education in the modern world requires that a student be exposed to students from other races, backgrounds, and economic circumstances.
- ✓ A healthy society requires that different elements of the society interact, and students need a culturally diverse environment. It is projected that America will not have a majority race by the year 2050.

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