



## Fact Sheet

### Financing Education in Wake County

- ✓ WCPSS had a \$1.714 billion annual budget in 2008-09. Sixty-two (62) percent, or \$768 million, was drawn down from the State, while 31 percent or \$393.5 million was local Wake County funding, and seven percent, of \$84.8 million, was from Federal funding.
- ✓ Wake County is the 18th largest public school district in the nation but has the lowest per pupil expenditures of any school district with 100,000 students or more. Wake County's per pupil expenditures are around the bottom 20<sup>th</sup> percent in the country.
- ✓ Total spending per pupil in WCPSS is \$7,821, below the state average of \$8,046, according to the 2009-10 budget for WCPSS. Wake County has used its economies of scale to maximize the efficiency of spending.

<b>Wake County vs. State Averages</b>			
<i>Source of Funds</i>	<i>WCPSS</i>	<i>State Avg.</i>	<i>Difference</i>
State	5,180	5,613	(433)
Federal	372	573	(201)
Local	2,269	1,860	409
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,821</b>	<b>\$8,046</b>	<b>225</b>

Source: 2009-2011 Adopted Budget for WCPSS

- ✓ About 83 percent of the approximately 165,000 Wake County children of public school age in 2007-08 attended WCPSS schools. About 9 percent attended private schools, 4.2 percent were home schooled, and 3 percent attended charter schools.
- ✓ In the 2010-11 school year, WCPSS will be opening four new schools and welcoming a projected **3,800 new students**. In addition, the district will face increased costs in mandated employee benefits. State funding for our schools will remain flat for next year--so the district will be doing more with less.
- ✓ Over the last five years, WCPSS's per pupil expenditure ranking has fallen from 71<sup>st</sup> to 84<sup>th</sup> of the 115 N.C. school districts. Next year, enrollment is expected to increase by about 3,800 students but expenditures will be flat. This means per pupil spending will decline even further.
- ✓ North Carolina's per pupil expenditures on support services are among the lowest in the nation, indicating that the larger school districts create administrative cost efficiencies.

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