



Fact Sheet

Comparing Wake County Schools and Other Urban N.C. School Systems *Broad Data Demonstrates Wake County Public School System outperforms CMS*

When the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) was recently named one of five finalists for the 2010 Broad Prize for Urban Education, a WCPSS Board member stated that “Wake’s data was just not strong.” *In fact*, on many key indicators, Wake *outperforms* CMS, Guilford, and Winston-Salem/Forsyth public schools. According to the Broad 2009 District Report:

- WCPSS has higher average 2008 SAT scores
- WCPSS has narrower 2008 SAT Achievement gaps between Subgroups
- WCPSS outperforms the other three districts in the percent of AP tests with scores of 3 or greater on CORE subjects.
- Subgroups of WCPSS students outperform state peers at Advanced and Proficient levels in Reading

Specifically, the Wake County Public School System outperforms Charlotte/Mecklenburg Schools, which abandoned their diversity policy in 2002 and has since moved to more socio-economically segregated schools. Research shows that high poverty schools have lower student achievement and higher teacher and staff turnover.

- WCPSS has higher 2008-09 four-year graduation rates than CMS: 78.4 percent (WCPSS) vs. 66.1 percent (CMS)
- WCPSS has higher ABC recognition: For 2008-09, CMS had four low-performing schools; WPCSS had none. WCPSS had about 1.5 times more Schools of Distinction than CMS (50 vs. 34).
- WCPSS has a higher *median* value for SAT scores across all high schools in 2007, 2008 and 2009: CMS students scored 60 to 80 points lower than WCPSS. In 2009, the WCPSS average combined SAT score was **1,074**, compared to **1,007** for CMS.
- WCPSS outperforms CMS in mean SAT scores (reading and math) for minority subgroups in 2005-2008. (Broad data 2005-2008). For all students in 2009 (sub-group data is not available yet), WCPSS outperforms CMS in mean SAT scores (2009 data NC SAT report)
- WCPSS exceeded the national average in SAT scores by 58 points

Admittedly, according to the Broad District Report for 2009, WCPSS needs to improve:

- mathematics performance
- participation in Advanced Placement tests

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