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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREAT SCHOOLS IN WAKE COALITION CONTINUES NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM SERIES IN WAKE FOREST, RALEIGH

Raleigh, NC, April 6, 2010—In response to overwhelming public demand for information about new policy initiatives that will significantly impact the quality of education in Wake County—including student assignment, economic stability and growth—the Great Schools in Wake Coalition (GSIW) has scheduled two new Neighborhood Forums in April.

The forums will give the public an opportunity to ask questions and air concerns, in contrast to the Wake Board of Education, which has restricted access to their public meetings and has failed to hold public hearings on recent student reassignments that are not related to calendar choices.

“Little by little, the new school board majority is chipping away at student assignment, creating instability for many students—in defiance of the three-year assignment plan established to ensure there *would* be stability for our children,” said GSIW Chair Yevonne Brannon. “To make matters worse, there has been little regard for the North Carolina Open Meetings Law,” added Brannon. “Handing out vouchers for board meetings and having citizens watch the Committee of the Whole on closed circuit TV severely hampers access to the proceedings. This is precisely why Great Schools is committed to providing an open forum for discussing the impact of these changes to our community.”

The first of two forums this month will be held on Thursday, April 15th from 7:00-8:30pm at the W.E.B. DuBois Center, 150 North White Street, Wake Forest. The Wake Forest forum will feature UNC School of Law Professor Mark Dorosin, former Wake County School Board member Beverley Clark, and Harvey Marshall, vice president of the W.E.B. DuBois Center.

The second forum, scheduled on Thursday, April 22nd, will be held from 7:00-8:30pm at Temple Beth Or, 5315 Creedmoor Road in Raleigh. Featured speakers include Former WCPSS Assistant Superintendent of Growth and Planning Chuck Dulaney, former Wake County School Board member Beverley Clark, and parent and lifelong Raleigh resident Mary Kelley.

Both forums will allow time for citizens to ask questions and comment.

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About Great Schools in Wake Coalition:

A project of WakeUP Wake County, Great Schools in Wake Coalition (GSIW) is a community coalition of organizations, business leaders, parents and citizen advocates who are working to ensure educational excellence in the Wake County Public School System. GSIW's mission is to provide accurate information to educate the public about policy initiatives that would impact the quality of education, foster well-informed discussions about critical education issues, and advocate for policies that improve public education in Wake County. For more information on the Coalition or to join, please visit: greatschoolsinline.org.