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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **GREAT SCHOOLS IN WAKE RECEIVES REDISTRICTING DATA**

Raleigh, NC—May 13, 2011—After multiple inquiries and a formal public information request, Great Schools in Wake (GSIW) is pleased to announce that it has finally received data used to develop the single plan for Wake County School Board redistricting.

GSIW's next step will be to analyze the data provided to ensure it provides a sufficient level of detail to help the public understand the rationale behind the one plan developed by Shanahan Law Firm. Among many concerns, is the fact that the plan splits seven precincts, at a potentially significant cost to Wake County taxpayers.

The single plan calls into question several of the Board of Education's own redistricting guidelines, including:

- “Except when required by federal law, districts should respect the boundaries of municipalities.” *Holly Springs is divided across two proposed School Board districts, while Knightdale and Fuquay-Varina are each split across three proposed districts.*
- “Districts should be reasonably compact, giving due consideration for the cores of prior districts, except to the extent core districts might violate federal law.” *In the proposed plan, District Five (South Central Raleigh) would pick up parts of Holly Springs, while other areas closer to this district in Cary and unincorporated Raleigh were assigned to District 8 (Apex, Holly Springs and part of Fuquay-Varina).*

GSIW believes the redistricting process should be fair, open, and transparent, and encourages the community to email Board members with their thoughts and suggestions. That there has been an absence of details and no substantive information explaining why only one redistricting plan was developed at significant taxpayer expense has been a chief complaint from many organizations, municipalities, and individuals across the County.

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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](http://greatschoolsinline.org).