



Fact Sheet

WCPSS “Choice” Student Assignment Plan: School Capacity

- A choice assignment plan presumes that there is available capacity at schools to make choice a viable option. Michael Alves, the consultant who helped WCPSS develop this school choice plan, said that having adequate capacity was essential to a successful choice program.
 - For the 2010-11 school year, 17 percent of students (24,216) attend class in trailers. The number of trailers at 51 percent of WCPSS schools *exceeds* the optimum prescribed number of temporary facilities. The Wakefield campus (elementary, middle and high school) has 90 trailers to accommodate its students—72 over the optimum number.
 - For the 2012-2013 school year, ten elementary schools have zero seat openings except for kindergarten: Brentwood, Brooks, Cedar Fork, Combs, Durant Road, Heritage, Holly Springs, Joyner, Washington and Wildwood Forest.
 - Also for 2012-2013, another fourteen elementary schools have 10 or fewer openings in grades 1-5 combined: Conn, Douglas, Knightdale, Lead Mine, Lynn Road, Fuquay-Varina, Mills Park, North Forest Pines, Northwoods, Wake Forest, Wiley and Yates Mill.
 - Despite a gain of 3,398 students in the 2011-2012 school year, five elementary schools were converted from a multi-track year round to a single track calendar: Alston Ridge, Highcroft, Lake Myra, Rand Road and Timber Drive.
 - As schools fill to capacity enrollments will be capped, students may not be able to attend their most proximate schools.
- Wake County Public Schools will soon experience a deficit of seats as population growth continues.
 - In the 2012-2013 school year the student population is estimated to reach 150,000, a gain of 3,313 students over the previous year. An additional 40,000 students are projected by year 2020.
 - There is a projected seat deficit for elementary school seats starting in four years, middle school seats in about six years and high school seats in two years, with deficits currently in existence in certain geographic areas.

January 30, 2012