

Good afternoon,

This board has made some very expensive, short-sighted decisions this past year. So when Mr. Tedesco trumpeted the acceptance patterns for magnet schools, I wondered what the real costs would be.

First, I want to point out that although 270 more students were accepted into magnet schools this year, the increase has nothing to do with dropping consideration of SES from policy as some have claimed. Approximately 300 additional seats are accounted for in the new spaces at the NC State STEM Magnet and space created by node changes at two schools. Without these seats, magnet acceptances would be lower than last year.

And overall, magnet applications are down.

But most disturbing is the thought that the change in policy will create more high poverty magnet schools because it removes the ability to limit concentrations of poverty. Most magnet schools are already at great risk of being high (or higher) poverty schools if they do not have an influx of low poverty students.

How are you going to make sure you're not turning our magnets into a series of high poverty schools?

You're creating a very high price tag in terms of dollars and educational quality for our students. You've already had to spend more money to address high poverty challenges in our schools such as principal bonuses, Renaissance schools, and teacher bonuses. When will you stop this madness and accept the fact that the most fiscally and morally sound policy is one that creates diversity in our schools!

Those of you leading the charge down this expensive road should also be leading the charge in calling for more money for education in the state budget. I would at least hope that all of you would take every opportunity in the media and with your representatives to call for more money for education in the state budget.

Mr. Tata has done this, thank you. Please show leadership and support him in doing what's right for our students.