

I am here to present some **staggering numbers** from the choice system for middle schools in Cary.

I represent Carpenter Elementary families who have asked for a closer feeder middle school. The plan feeds us into East Cary rather than one of the 6 more proximate. We are monitoring 6th grade seats and noticing trends already. Note that these figures are only the number of students waiting as a **first** choice. In addition, since we're only **½ way** into the choice period, the number waiting at most schools is **increasing daily**.

-Davis Drive has 61 seats open and **185** waiting.

-Mills Park has 118 seats open and 109 waiting.

-West Cary has **0** seats open and **33** waiting- this was before the recent system correction which reset it to 0.

-East Cary Middle has **91** seats open and approximately **15** waiting – this also was before the system correction.

The first staggering figure here is Davis Drive – 61 seats open but already **185** waiting. That's **3 times** the number waiting **than there are seats**. This school is obviously **over chosen** – but why? Families at both Carpenter and Morrisville prefer a **proximate neighborhood school** over a year round school far from their homes. They are attempting to leave their feeder pattern which assigns them to East Cary.

Another concerning figure is **East Cary** – 91 seats open but only about 15 waiting. This school **has space** yet is still **under chosen** – but why? We have suggested the problem is a combination of calendar, location and a start time that is too early. Please address these issues at this under-utilized school. Busing our children there by default is **not** the solution.

If you do the math for all the figures from these middle schools in west Cary it points to an even bigger problem. There are just **not enough middle school seats**. When will you address this underlying problem? We ask that you consider changing the Mills Park Middle calendar back to year round, **as it was intended**, so that it can hold 312 more students. This would also provide calendar continuity for the 3 other year round elementary schools that currently feed it.

In closing – **one of the board** was quoted as saying about the plan "**No matter what we do, we are going to create our own winners and losers,**" END QUOTE That was a poor choice of words about something you expect the public to be excited about. That statement **really stuck with me**. It made me realize that **we** ended up as **losers** in this plan. Our group has been fighting for our children for **3 years** and **will continue** until changes are made so that they are **not losers anymore**. I ask you **all** to report and analyze the data **objectively**, own up to the **mistakes and poor features** of the plan and **change what is necessary** so that **all** the children in Wake County can be **winners**.