

Late last week, I read about Mr. Tedesco congratulating himself for the increase in magnet acceptances for the upcoming school year over the number in 2010.

270 more kids were accepted, but this had nothing to do with Mr. Tedesco and his allies.

Let's take a closer look at this increase:

143 more kids were accepted at Carnage, which has more room for magnet students because Ms. Goldman joined with Mr. Hill, Mr. Sutton, Dr. Morrison, and Dr. McLaurin to defeat an effort by the rest of the Board to send students from West Lake to Carnage.

101 more kids were accepted at Washington Elementary, which has more room because the Raleigh Housing Authority demolished the Walnut Terrace housing project that was part of Washington's base.

56 more kids were accepted at the NCSU STEM magnet, because it OPENS this Fall and did not exist in 2010.

Mr. Tedesco and his allies cannot take credit for these things, and without them, there would have been fewer acceptances, not more.

In addition, 58 of the new acceptances were at Smith, a high poverty, racially isolated magnet school that used to turn away magnet students who would make it even poorer and more racially isolated. Look at it this Fall and see if it is not even poorer and more racially isolated than it is today.

Meanwhile, despite the broadening of the pool of applicants who could hope to succeed in their applications, applications are down as much as acceptances are up.

What does this mean? It means that the real result of the end of the diversity policy is precisely what you would expect: magnet schools generating less of the interest necessary to prevent their decline into high poverty, racially isolated, neighborhood schools.