

Our 20+ year magnet program has grown into a model for the nation. Its popularity locally is so strong, many parents complained about lack of access for magnets, and wanted more, however this student assignment plan has a net loss of 307 seats for the system. - so far.

Only two schools - Farmington Woods and Smith - gained magnet seats while Bugg, Conn, AB Combs, Poe, Carnage, Moore Square, Centennial, and SouthEast lost seats by your increasing the base at each of these schools.

Do you each know how many magnet students in your district are attending magnet schools? Lets look at the High schools. Mrs. Goldman, Cary High sends 169 students to magnets, Tedesco, 171 from Middle Creek and 272 from Garner Senior High attend magnets, In fact, Mr Tedesco, if Garner Senior High did not have students leave for Raleigh based magnet schools, there would be no room for Garner Senior to accept magnet applications for the IB program!! Mr Margiotta, did you know Holly Springs High sends 62 students, and Apex High sends 121 students to magnet high schools? Mr Malone, 91 students leave WFR for magnets. Leesville, Mrs. Prickett, sends 119 students to magnets. Total in just high school, that's over 1000 students from your districts into the magnet program. Imagine how the numbers add up for Middle and Elementary! But, next year, 307 students will be denied access into magnet high schools because this student assignment plan removed predominantly high poverty students from lower poverty schools under the cloak of proximity.

This magnet seat reduction did not have to happen this year. You could have waited until your February consensus meeting, and growth management's comprehensive plan. But you didn't. You had only one plan, and that was proximity. But you ran your campaigns on stability as well. Why did these moves trump stability for these students?