



Contacts: Yevonne Brannon/Patty Williams  
Tel: 919-244-6243/919-696-8059  
Email: [info@greatschoolsinline.org](mailto:info@greatschoolsinline.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **GREAT SCHOOLS IN WAKE COALITION APPLAUDS PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS**

### **Commitment to Excellence Reflected in Improved Student Achievement**

Raleigh, NC—July 14, 2010—Newly released 2009-10 test results show commendable gains—including across-the-board narrowing of the achievement gap—for all students in the County. Credit is due to hardworking teachers, whose day-to-day efforts in the classroom and participation in Professional Learning Teams has driven student success.

“The scores released today are further proof that teachers matter a great deal,” said Yevonne Brannon, Chair of the Great Schools in Wake Coalition. “It is imperative that the Board of Education works to create an environment where teachers want to teach and collaborate with other teachers, and have the support of a system that encourages their success.”

Studies have shown the direct correlation between having highly qualified, experienced teaching professionals in the classroom and high achieving students. High poverty schools are known to have great difficulty attracting and retaining experienced teachers and principals. Largely socio-economically balanced, Wake County’s schools have a reputation for attracting excellent teachers.

“Countless people can relate to the story of that teacher, whose lessons they can still recall, and whose inspiration has endured for a lifetime,” noted Tama Bouncer, President of the Wake North Carolina Association of Teachers. “Teachers truly make a difference in the lives of our children; the results reported by the Wake County Schools are just one important measure of that fact.”

Clearly, there remains considerable room for improvement in student achievement. But at least for today, members of our community need to stop, reflect—and thank a teacher.

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**About Great Schools in Wake Coalition:**

A project of WakeUP Wake County, Great Schools in Wake Coalition (GSIW) is a community coalition of organizations, business leaders, parents and citizen advocates who are working to ensure educational excellence in the Wake County Public School System. GSIW's mission is to provide accurate information to educate the public about policy initiatives that would impact the quality of education, foster well-informed discussions about critical education issues, and advocate for policies that improve public education in Wake County. For more information on the Coalition or to join, please visit: [greatschoolsinline.org](http://greatschoolsinline.org).