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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREAT SCHOOLS IN WAKE RESPONDS TO SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY'S FEEDBACK TO OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Raleigh, NC—April 20, 2011—After a careful analysis of the response submitted by the Wake County School Board Attorney to the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Great Schools in Wake (GSIW) wishes to share its findings with the public.

It is GSIW's hope that its analysis will inspire open community dialog as well as a demand for accurate, sound, and transparent use of comprehensive data by the Wake County Public Schools in its decision making processes and in all public communications.

The report contains many oversights and misleading information. Among GSIW's many findings:

- The Board majority acted deliberately to separate economically disadvantaged and minority students from certain schools; specific examples of node moves that disregard Policy 6200 assignment criteria (proximity, facilities utilization) can be found in the report.
- Preferentially selected data (length of bus ride, a measure of proximity) was used to falsely imply a causal relationship between socio-economic diversity (just one of several assignment criteria in former Policy 6200) and student achievement results for economically disadvantaged students.
- Contrary to the Board majority's claim that changes to student assignment policy were made to improve student achievement, modifications to Policy 6200 actually eliminated appropriate student achievement metrics from the assignment criteria.
- John Tedesco's statement that WCPSS has been "shifting these kids around every year" is not supported by evidence. A review of the history of assignment by node disproves this claim. The unfortunate truth is that many children who have

moved schools multiple times are children of poverty, who are often transient and change schools due to their housing changes.

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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.