



Fact Sheet

Student Transportation

- ✓ The average bus ride in WCPSS is 20 minutes. (Source: N.C. Department of Public Instruction)
- ✓ Only 3 percent of students are bused for diversity. (Healthy Schools Task Force Executive Summary, February 17, 2004)
- ✓ Growth is the number one reason students are moved to a different school in Wake County because a new school is opened.
- ✓ Wake County schools have experienced significant growth during the past ten years:
 - 1989-1999 (10 years) WCPSS had an increase of 32,000 students
 - 1999-2004 (5 years) WCPSS had an increase of 19,058 students
 - 2004-2009 (5years) WCPSS had an increase of 26,217 students
- ✓ Since the year 2000, WCPSS has opened 48 new schools (29 elementary, 9 middle, 9 high and 1 special/optional), making more than 48,000 more seats available. This ties directly to the approximately 46,000 student reassignments made during that same period.
- ✓ Most students in WCPSS attend a school within five miles of their home by assignment. In 2008-09, 52 students (out of 137,706) were assigned further than 13 miles from their residence node. See table below.

Distance from Student Residence Node to Attending School by Assignment

School Level 2008-2009 Assignment	1 mile	2 miles	3 miles	4 miles	5 miles	6 miles	7 miles	8 miles	9 miles	10 miles	11 miles	12 miles	13+ miles
Elementary Schools	41%	67.4%	79.7%	86.6%	91.4%	93%	95.3%	97.2%	97.9%	98.6%	99%	99.5%	99.9%
Middle Schools	15.6%	38.4%	58.6%	72.3%	82.3%	89.7%	93.5%	95.3%	97.3%	98.7%	99.2%	99.9%	99.9%
High School	13.6%	38.6%	59.5%	71.5%	82.2%	90%	95%	97.6%	98.7%	99.4%	99.7%	99.8%	99.9%

- ✓ State funds pay for most transportation cost for NC school systems. The annual budget for transportation costs in 2007-08 was \$57.8 million, with more than 75,000 Wake County students riding buses. Given the reliance on state funding, if Wake County were able to save on transportation costs, only 24 percent of savings would stay in Wake County and not be kept by the State.
- ✓ Wake County spends about \$50 less per student per year on busing compared to neighborhood schools in other large systems.
- ✓ Wake County Public Schools is designated as the county’s largest financial commitment for 2010. Proposed funding for Wake County Public Schools is estimated to decrease from \$316.2 million in the FY09 Adopted Budget to \$313.5 million to a decrease of less than 1 percent.
- ✓ On transportation to and from school, the Wake County Public School System spent \$540.98 per student (\$2.55/mile) in 2006-07, compared with a state average of \$600.07 (\$2.66/mile).

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