

# *Wake County Schools Survey*

## *Interview Schedule*

*N = 500 Likely School Board Election Voters*

*Margin of Error = +/-4.38%*

*Field Dates: August 12-13, 2009*

1. First, are you registered to vote at this address?

100% Yes

2. On a scale of one to ten, how likely do you think you are to vote in October's school board election? One means you are not at all likely to vote, five means there is a 50-50 chance you will vote, and ten means it is certain that you will vote in the School Board Election in October. Remember you can use any number between one and ten. Terminate if 5 or less.

**72% 10**  
**81% 9-10**  
**91% 8-10**  
**97% 7-10**

**19% 8-9**  
**9% 6-7**

72% 10  
9% 9  
10% 8  
6% 7  
3% 6

**9.4 MEAN**

3. If you had to assign a letter grade to Wake County public schools based on their performance, what grade would you give them, with A being the highest grade and F being the lowest?

10% A (Includes Pluses and minuses)  
36% B (Includes Pluses and minuses)

- 33% C (Includes Pluses and minuses)
- 11% D (Includes Pluses and minuses)
- 5% F (Includes Pluses and minuses)
- 4% None/Nothing/Don't Know (DNR)
- Refused (DO NOT READ)

4. What do you think the Wake County Public School System does well?

- 14% Has good teachers/ Like the staff/ Quality Teachers
- 14% Education/ Educating children
- 12% Variety of classes/ Curriculum/ Special needs classes
- 8% Diversity/ Maintaining diversity
- 7% Everything/ Doing a good job (general)
- 5% Dealing with growth/ Population/ Good class sizes
- 4% Communicating with parents
- 4% Prepares students for college/ Future
- 3% High academic standards/ Academic achievements
- 2% Buses/ Transportation
- 2% Year round school
- 2% Advanced Placement/ AP classes/ Higher level classes
- 1% Provides opportunities
- 2% Other
- 20% None/Nothing/ Doing a bad job/ Other negative comments
- 19% Don't know/ Not familiar/ Don't have children in school
- 2% Refused

5. What do you think the Wake County Public School System does poorly?

- 20% Assigning students to school/ Not able to attend local school/ Reassigning
- 16% Wasteful spending/ Use of resources/ Managing finances
- 14% Education/ Not educating well/ Low quality of education
- 14% Buses/ Transportation/ Picking up small amount of students

- 13% Poor administration/ Principals/ Too many administration positions/ poor planning
- 10% Poor communications/ Not informing parents
- 6% Overcrowding/ Too many students in classrooms
- 5% Year round schooling/ Different schedules/ Changes year to year
- 3% Everything/ Doing a bad job (general)
- 3% Not paying teachers enough/ Paying administration too much
- 3% Bad teachers/ Poor teaching
- 2% Lacking discipline
- 2% Other
- 5% None/Nothing/ Doing a good job/ Other positive comments
- 10% Don't Know/ Not familiar/ Don't have children in school
- 2% Refused

6. Please tell me which statement comes closer to your opinion... (ROTATE)

- 28% The school system should be able to assign students to year round school even if the parents disagree.
- 68% Parents should be able to choose to send their child to either a year-round or traditional calendar school.
- 3% Don't Know (DO NOT READ)
- 1% Refused (DO NOT READ)

7. Wake County is currently the 18th largest school system in the nation. Based on that fact, please tell me which opinion comes closer to your own... (ROTATE)

- 49% (Some/other) people say that the district is too large and should be split up to make it more responsive to local communities.
- 38% (Other/some) people say that the size is an advantage that allows the county to provide more services to individual schools and students.
- 12% Don't Know (DO NOT READ)
- 1% Refused (DO NOT READ)

8. Currently, Wake County Schools assigns students to schools based on a need to achieve "socio-economic" diversity in the schools. Based on that fact, please tell me which opinion comes closer to your own... (ROTATE)

- 70% (Some/other) people say this policy is unfair to parents and students who are not allowed to go to the school closest to their home.
- 24% (Other/some) people say this policy is necessary to achieve a balanced school with a diverse student population.

5% Don't Know (DO NOT READ)  
1% Refused (DO NOT READ)

9. Do you support or oppose the school board's current policy of assigning students to schools based on achieving diversity, instead of sending students to the school closest to their home?

**25% Total Support**  
**69% Total Oppose**

14% Strongly Support  
11% Somewhat Support  
18% Somewhat Oppose  
51% Strongly Oppose  
5% Don't Know/ Undecided (DO NOT READ)  
1% Refused (DO NOT READ)

10. If you knew that despite diversity reassignment and busing in Wake County, the achievement gap between minority and white students has continued to grow, would you be more likely or less likely to support assigning students to schools to achieve diversity?

**22% Total More Likely**  
**59% Total Less Likely**

11% Much More Likely  
11% Somewhat More Likely  
15% Somewhat Less Likely  
44% Much Less Likely  
12% No Difference (DO NOT READ)  
7% Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)

**(ROTATE QUESTIONS 11 AND 12)**

11. Hypothetically, would you rather send your child to a school that is closest to your home or one that is further away but would be more economically diverse?

**79% Total Close to Home**  
**15% Total Economically Diverse**

66% Strongly, Close to Home

- 13% Somewhat, Close to Home
- 6% Somewhat, Economically Diverse
- 9% Strongly, Economically Diverse
- 5% Don't Know/Neither/Other (DNR)
- 1% Refused (DO NOT READ)

12. Hypothetically, would you rather send your child to a school that is closest to your home or one that is further away but would be more ethnically or racially diverse?

**78% Total Close to Home**  
**17% Total Ethnically Diverse**

- 66% Strongly, Close to Home
- 12% Somewhat, Close to Home
- 7% Somewhat, Ethnically Diverse
- 10% Strongly, Ethnically Diverse
- 4% Don't Know/Neither/Other (DNR)
- 1% Refused (DO NOT READ)

Now I am going to read you some statements about education and Wake Schools. After I read each statement, please tell me if you agree or disagree with that statement... The (first/next) one is... **(RANDOMIZE)**

<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>Total Disagree</b>	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Ref.
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13. It is important to achieve diversity in our public schools as it teaches children about different cultures.

<b>64%</b>	<b>33%</b>	32%	32%	16%	17%	3%	--
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14. It is important for children to go to the school closest to their home as it allows for the most parental involvement.  
**84%** **15%**          64%      19%      10%      5%      1%      --
15. Wake County schools do a good job in preparing students for college.  
**70%** **19%**          32%      38%      9%      10%      10%      1%
16. Wake County schools do a good job in preparing students to enter the workforce.  
**57%** **27%**          19%      38%      14%      13%      15%      --
17. The Wake County school board is a good steward of taxpayer money and spends tax dollars effectively.  
**35%** **57%**          11%      24%      22%      35%      8%      --

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18. Do you think Wake County funding for Wake public schools should increase, decrease or stay the same?

44% Increase  
15% Decrease  
35% Stay the same  
5% Don't Know/ Refused (DO NOT READ)

(IF q18:1 ASK)

19. Are you willing to pay higher property taxes to increase county funding?

77% Yes  
21% No  
2% Don't Know (DO NOT READ)  
-- Refused (DO NOT READ)

(ASK ALL)

20. How much in total county, state and federal government spending do you think is spent per student in Wake County?

- 17% Under 5 thousand dollars
- 29% Between 5 and 8 thousand dollars
- 17% Between 8 and 10 thousand dollars
- 10% Between 10 and 13 thousand dollars
- 2% Between 13 and 15 thousand dollars
- 2% 15 thousand dollars and Up
- 23% Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)

21. If you knew that total government spending per student was in excess of \$12,000 per year should it increase, decrease or stay the same?

- 21% Increase
- 30% Decrease
- 35% Stay the same
- 14% Don't Know/ Refused (DO NOT READ)

22. Do you think pay for teachers in Wake County should increase, decrease or stay the same?

- 64% Increase
- 3% Decrease
- 26% Stay the same
- 7% Don't Know/ Refused (DO NOT READ)

(IF q22:1, ASK)

23. Would you be willing to pay higher property taxes in order to give teachers a pay increase?

- 70% Yes
- 26% No
- 3% Don't Know (DO NOT READ)
- Refused (DO NOT READ)

(ASK ALL)

24. How much do you think the average teacher in Wake County earns per year?

- 8% Under 30 thousand dollars
- 50% Between 30 and 40 thousand dollars
- 25% Between 40 and 50 thousand dollars
- 6% Between 50 and 60 thousand dollars
- 1% Between 60 and 70 thousand dollars
- Between 70 and 80 thousand dollars
- 1% 80 thousand dollars and Up
- 10% Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)

25. If you knew the avg. compensation for a teacher in Wake County was about 53 thousand dollars per year do you think it should increase, decrease or remain the same?

- 38% Increase
- 8% Decrease
- 49% Stay the same
- 5% Don't Know/ Refused (DO NOT READ)

26. Would you be more likely or less likely to support the Wake County Public School system if you knew that 115 non-teaching employees of the Wake County school system made over \$100,000 a year?

**10% Total More Likely**  
**69% Total Less Likely**

- 3% Much More Likely
- 8% Somewhat More Likely
- 23% Somewhat Less Likely
- 46% Much Less Likely

- 15% No Difference (DO NOT READ)
- 6% Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)

27. Would you be more likely or less likely to support the Wake County Public School system if you knew that the Wake County public schools superintendent's salary was \$273,000 a year plus benefits?

- 16% Total More Likely**
- 67% Total Less Likely**

- 5% Much More Likely
- 11% Somewhat More Likely
- 19% Somewhat Less Likely
- 48% Much Less Likely
- 14% No Difference (DO NOT READ)
- 3% Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)

28. Regardless of if you have children and if money were not an issue; would you choose to send your child to a private, religious or home-school instead of Wake County Public Schools? (ROTATE)

- 20% Private School, Non-Religious
- 24% Private School, Religious
- 5% Home School
- 45% Would Send to Wake County Public School
- 1% Other (DO NOT READ)
- 5% Don't Know (DO NOT READ)
- 1% Refused (DO NOT READ)

29. Has the federal legislation known as the No Child Left Behind been good or bad for public schools?

- 19% Good
- 59% Bad
- 22% Don't Know (DO NOT READ)
- 1% Refused (DO NOT READ)

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*Now I have just a few more questions for statistical purposes, and then we will be finished....*

30. Would you say your age range is...?

12% 30-40  
36% 41-55  
23% 56-65  
27% 66+  
3% Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)

31. If you were to label yourself, would you say you are a liberal, a moderate, or a conservative in your political beliefs?

**16% Total Liberal**  
**42% Total Conservative**

7% Very Liberal  
10% Somewhat Liberal  
38% Moderate  
20% Somewhat Conservative  
22% Very Conservative  
1% Don't Know (DO NOT READ)  
3% Refused (DO NOT READ)

32. Regardless of how you are registered, do you consider yourself to be more... (ROTATE)

\_\_\_ Republican  
\_\_\_ Democrat ...or something else?

34% Republican  
31% Something Else/Undeclared/Independent  
32% Democrat  
4% Don't Know/Refused

33. Which category best describes your race or ethnicity? (RANDOMIZE)

7% African-American or Black  
87% White or Caucasian  
1% Hispanic or Latino  
-- Asian or Pacific Islander  
1% Native American  
-- Middle Eastern  
-- Other  
3% Refused (DO NOT READ)

34. Do you have children or grandchildren in a Wake County Public School?

49% Yes

50% No  
1% Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)

35. Did you personally attend a Wake County Public School?

18% Yes  
81% No  
1% Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)

36. Do you or any members of your family work for the Wake County Schools?

20% Yes  
79% No  
1% Don't Know/Refused (DO NOT READ)

37. Gender (By Observation)

48% Male  
52% Female

38. Party Registration (Pre-Code)

38% Republican  
19% Independent/Unaffiliated/Other  
43% Democrat