



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Work Session

Goals for Long-term Success

Purpose and Theory of Action:

Reducing socio-economic imbalance in schools is a key action (among many others) that will help WCPSS achieve our community's **Goal** for students.

Goal: WCPSS will annually graduate at least 95% of its **students** ready for productive citizenship as well as higher education or a career.

Where we've been:

- WCPSS is a historical leader in the country.
- WCPSS has seen a shift toward socio-economic imbalance in our schools.
- Opportunity gaps remain persistent.

Meeting 1:

- Established a common agreement that addressing SES imbalance is part of reaching our **Goal**.

Meeting 2:

- Surfaced key information we will need to drive our work, discussed stakeholder involvement and charged staff with **presenting an operational, measurable target**.

Objectives for Today:

- **Confirm** the methodology to measure socio-economic imbalance in Wake County schools;
- **Set** a measurable, time-bound goal for decreasing socio-economic imbalance in Wake County schools;
- **Review** and **provide** feedback on year-long plan for work sessions.

Using Socioeconomic Status

The Wake County Public School System uses the Wake County **Economic Health Index** to measure the socioeconomic and demographic conditions in our schools and communities. The index contains the following socioeconomic and demographic variables:

- **Median Household Income:** The median household income in the past 12 months
- **Food Stamps:** Measured as a percentage of households in each block group.
- **Rent as greater than 30% of Income:** Gross rent as a percentage of household income.
- **Home Mortgage as greater than 30% of Income:** Mortgage status by owner cost as a percentage of household income.
- **Persons living between 100%–200% of Federal Poverty Level:** Ratio of income to poverty level for whom poverty status is determined between 100 and 200 percent.

Using Socioeconomic Status

The main source for these data is the **United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey** (ACS – most current 5-year average estimates) at the Block Group-level geography. Using the Block Groups as a proxy for a “Community,” the ACS data were chosen to gain an understanding of the “Household” economic condition within the communities.

The rankings in the WCPSS data correspond to the **Wake County Economic Health Rank**, with 1 being the community with the highest economic health and 455 the lowest. WCPSS can determine the economic health of the base attendance area and actual school enrollment using the **Wake County Economic Health Rank**.

The percentiles provided by staff represent the average score for the school based on the students residing in the base or who actually attend the school.

School Socioeconomic Goals

Range= distance +/- from the 50th percentile

Base Only Population= assuming only the base students attended the school and no one else

Actual Students Attending the School= represents the actual current student population (base and non-base students at the school)

Overall Percentage of Schools= the percentage of schools that fall into this range compared to the total number of schools for that level (Elementary, Middle or High)

Example for Illustrative Purposes:

Range	Base Only Population	Base Only Population	Overall Percentage of schools	Range	Actual Students Attending the School	Actual Students Attending the School	Overall Percentage of schools
+/- 10	34 schools (0-40 th percentile)	42 schools (60 th -100 th percentile)	65%	+/- 10	32 schools (0-40 th percentile)	39 schools (60 th -100 th percentile)	61%

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Elementary School Socioeconomic Goals

Range	Base Only Population	Base Only Population	Overall Percentage of schools	Range	Actual Students Attending the School	Actual Students Attending the School	Overall Percentage of schools
+/- 10	34 schools (0-40 th percentile)	42 schools (60 th -100 th percentile)	65%	+/- 10	32 schools (0-40 th percentile)	39 schools (60 th -100 th percentile)	61%
+/- 15	24 schools (0-35 th percentile)	31 schools (65 th -100 th percentile)	47%	+/- 15	23 schools (0-35 th percentile)	26 schools (65 th -100 th percentile)	42%
+/- 20	17 schools (0-30 th percentile)	26 schools (70 th -100 th percentile)	37%	+/- 20	14 schools (0-30 th percentile)	16 schools (70 th -100 th percentile)	26%
+/- 25	8 schools (0-25 th percentile)	18 schools (75 th -100 th percentile)	22%	+/- 25	8 schools (0-25 th percentile)	11 schools (75 th -100 th percentile)	16%

Middle School Socioeconomic Goals

Range	Base Only Population	Base Only Population	Overall Percentage of schools	Range	Actual Students Attending the School	Actual Students Attending the School	Overall Percentage of schools
+/- 10	11 schools (0-40 th percentile)	13 schools (60 th -100 th percentile)	63%	+/- 10	10 schools (0-40 th percentile)	10 schools (60 th -100 th percentile)	53%
+/- 15	7 schools (0-35 th percentile)	11 schools (65 th -100 th percentile)	47%	+/- 15	8 schools (0-35 th percentile)	6 schools (65 th -100 th percentile)	37%
+/- 20	6 schools (0-30 th percentile)	6 schools (70 th -100 th percentile)	32%	+/- 20	5 schools (0-30 th percentile)	3 schools (70 th -100 th percentile)	21%
+/- 25	2 schools (0-25 th percentile)	5 schools (75 th -100 th percentile)	18%	+/- 25	3 schools (0-25 th percentile)	1 schools (75 th -100 th percentile)	11%

High School Socioeconomic Goals

Range	Base Only Population	Base Only Population	Overall Percentage of schools	Range	Actual Students Attending the School	Actual Students Attending the School	Overall Percentage of schools
+/- 10	7 schools (0-40 th percentile)	6 schools (60 th -100 th percentile)	65%	+/- 10	7 schools (0-40 th percentile)	5 schools (60 th -100 th percentile)	61%
+/- 15	7 schools (0-35 th percentile)	4 schools (65 th -100 th percentile)	47%	+/- 15	7 schools (0-35 th percentile)	5 schools (65 th -100 th percentile)	42%
+/- 20	4 schools (0-30 th percentile)	3 schools (70 th -100 th percentile)	37%	+/- 20	4 schools (0-30 th percentile)	2 schools (70 th -100 th percentile)	26%
+/- 25	3 schools (0-25 th percentile)	2 schools (75 th -100 th percentile)	22%	+/- 25	3 schools (0-25 th percentile)	1 schools (75 th -100 th percentile)	16%

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- **Set** a measurable, time-bound goal for decreasing socio-economic imbalance in Wake County schools;

Goals for Discussion and Consideration:

- **Elementary schools** in WCPSS will have an overall student population with an economic health index within **20 percentile** points of the county average.
- **Middle schools and high schools** in WCPSS will have an overall student population with an economic health index within **15 percentile** points of the county average.

Discussion of Time Frame and Target for Consideration:

__% of schools will achieve the goal by the 2024-2025 school year.

Proposed Long-Term Plan

Suggested topics and dates (DRAFT)



Stakeholders and Community Front and Center

1	Advocacy
2	Municipality/Gov't
3	Parents
4	PTA
5	Teacher Advocacy Groups
6	Principals
7	Disenfranchised Families
8	Student Support Group
9	Students
10	Chambers of Commerce
11	Business Community

12	Child Care providers/Early Ed
13	Community
14	Faith-based community
15	Alumni of WCPSS
16	WCPSS employees
17	State Elected Officials
18	Higher Ed
19	Developers/realtors
20	Regional Transit Groups
21	Party Leadership (GOP, Democratic, Libertarians)
22	Social Services

General Meeting Structure Moving Forward:

- **10 minutes: Review of outcomes from last meeting and parking lot items**
- **20 minutes: Review of data on meeting's focus**
- **90 minutes: Facilitated discussion with the objectives:**
 - Consideration of policy and practice changes to decrease SES imbalance.
 - **Next steps** for the staff to ensure policies and practices are decreasing imbalance.