



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE CONFERENCE**

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Wake County's Public School System: Today and Beyond

Statement

The NAACP does not endorse candidates; we endorse issues, justice, civil rights and encourage all citizens to participate fully in voting. Our motto is "We have no permanent enemies, no permanent friends, only permanent interests." We never see an election as an end-all because what matters most is the public policy that follows the election. We are never complacent when we have a majority who supports our ideas or deterred when those who support our ideas are in the minority. For more than 100 years, no matter what the odds were, we have made America and North Carolina better by having Bold Dreams, and winning Big Victories. When it comes to education, our agenda is clear; every child deserves a high quality diverse constitutional education. We believe the keys to this is:

1. Fighting any efforts towards re-segregation.
2. Providing equity in funding.
3. Increasing our focus on Math and Science.
4. Providing high quality teachers and smaller class sizes.
5. Engaging Parental and Community involvement throughout our Educational System.

The problem with what has happened with the Wake County School Board Elections this year is that the entire political debate has been flawed and distorted. Words like "Neighborhood Schools" and "Forced Busing" have been used as code words and instruments of division. What is a Neighborhood School, every three miles? Every five miles? Every ten miles? Should there be an Elementary, Middle, or High School within a particular radius? This does not make sense and it is not economically feasible. Wake County is our neighborhood, not a few selected street corners.

What do we mean by forced busing? Busing will always be a part of every school system.

Why are we for diversity? Is it just so black and white children can sit beside each other? No. Anti-diversity leads to re-segregation. Separate but equal is illegal. Wherever we re-segregate, it not only affects bodies but budgets, buildings, and the basic needs of a sound quality education for all children, black and white. Furthermore, strong quality schools have an impact on economic development. If the best schools are only in certain neighborhoods, then only those neighborhoods will benefit positively in the areas of housing, jobs, and business development.

What we should be talking about is **how to have a constitutional school for every child, which meets the promises of the federal constitution, the state constitution, and the civil rights laws of our nation. Anything less is fundamentally flawed.**

After today's election, the constitution, the promise of equal protection, will be the tools of interpretation by which we critique the policy of not only the Wake County School Board but every school board in the state. When and if the policies run counter of the fundamental promises of the constitution, we will be prepared to agitate, legislate, and if needed litigate on behalf of our children.

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