



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Work Session**

**PRECIS**

**SUBJECT/TOPIC**

OVERVIEW OF EXISTING ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS UPDATE

**DEPARTMENT, BOARD/STAFF LIAISON(S), AND ANY PRESENTERS FROM  
OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT**

Dr. Marvin Connelly, Jr., Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services  
Ms. Karen Hamilton, Assistant Superintendent, Special Education Services  
Dr. Denise Tillery, Senior Director of Intervention Services

**BACKGROUND**

In 2010, the Data and Accountability department conducted a study of the Wake County Public School System's (WCPSS) alternative educational options. The study found that the WCPSS options are similar to those in other North Carolina districts. WCPSS student outcomes based on state assessments and federal standards are also equivalent or higher than other districts; although, the capacity for WCPSS students served at each alternative setting is generally lower. Students at WCPSS alternative schools receive benefits such as smaller classes and greater access to counseling services. Student data also indicate that these environments help build student resiliency. Base school personnel understand some aspects of the alternative schools, but greater transparency is needed, especially at the high school level. Additional alternative education sites are needed to better meet the needs of at-risk elementary students. Comprehensive services and settings for long-term suspended students and students with severe behavioral issues who are ineligible for special education services should also be created. Staff will provide an update to the implementation of the recommendations of this study. Most of the recommendations have been completed over the last two years.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**SAVINGS**

Not applicable.

**NEXT STEPS / RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff is requesting input and direction from the Board on alternative options.

