

***Editor's note:** The list below is a list of accomplishments and achievements provided by the Wake County Public School System from Tony Tata's Aug. 23, 2012, "State of the School's Address."*

**When the superintendent arrived, the Wake County Public School system faced:**

- A \$60m budget gap
- AdvancEd accreditation downgrade
- System was adding more than 3,000 students a year with no student assignment plan for 2012-13
- Since January 2011, WCPSS has taken aggressive corrective action with AdvancEd that led elevated accreditation status.

**Protected classrooms and invested in people**

- Balanced 2 two budgets under tough economic times without cutting a single teacher or teacher's assistant position.
- Included bonuses and raises for certified and non-certified staff for the past two budget cycles.
- Added foreign language to every middle school during challenging budgets.

**Started an Office of Early Learning**

- Engages Pre-K – crucial years
- Aligns services through one office
- Providing services to students with greatest needs

**Established Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE)**

- Established office of Family and Community engagement to help better inform and get families, the community and business partners involved in education.
- Hosted and coordinated more than 250 information sessions, group meetings and community meetings on the 2012-13 student assignment plan
- Provides continued communication support across many platforms to keep families and the community informed about important school system issues.
- Enrolled more than 11,000 kindergartners before the usual deadline to prepare families for the plan.

- Created Parent Academy, an 8-week workshop to help parents better understand WCPSS, the transition to kindergarten, college preparation and Common Core.

### **Changed how we use Title I funding**

- In 2011-12, WCPSS pushed \$17 million in Title I money to schools.
- This includes \$1.2 million that was being held in Central Services.
- We also shifted our use of Title I funds from targeted assistance (using the funds just for low-income students) to using the dollars school-wide, which allowed schools to add teachers, teaching assistants, professional development and other resources that ultimately boost student achievement.

### **School innovation**

- Created Leadership Academies
  - These schools will eventually serve students in grades 6 through 13 (the additional year allows them to earn college credit)
  - The schools are Early College models, where students will have the opportunity to earn up to two years transferable college credit while earning their diplomas.
  - More than 800 applications for 300 seats
  - About half the students at each school would be the first in their families to attend college
- Hilburn Drive Academy
  - Converted to Hilburn Drive Elementary to Hilburn Drive Academy, a K-8, multi-language STEM school
  - Resulted in increased enrollment at a historically declining school
  - The K-8 model → stability for families
  - Added middle school seats to North Raleigh
- Expanded STEM and Global Schools networks to 42 schools
- Working to create standalone Career Technical Education (CTE) High School
- Implemented Renaissance Model in four schools
  - All four schools saw gains in proficiency
  - Barwell Road

- Two years ago: Barwell was the lowest performing school in Wake County
  - Proficiency: 74.1%, a 9.7-point gain
  - Now a High Growth school
- Wilburn
  - Proficiency: 7.7-point gain (66.4%)
  - Now a High growth school
- Creech Road Elementary
  - +1 point
  - High Growth school
- Brentwood
  - + 3.1 percentage points
  - met Expected Growth

### **Major changes to Special Education Services**

- Created new Assistant Superintendent of Special Education position, elevating Special Education to my Leadership Team to bring those needs and that perspective into all major decisions
- Initiated board resolution on inclusion and establishing October as Disability History and Awareness Month
- Created new website with resources for parents of Special Education students
- Surveyed parents to learn their concerns and make changes
- Based on surveys, WCPSS created a special education task force to look specifically at transportation for Students with Disabilities
- Revised contracts with vendors who provide transportation for Students with Disabilities, including working with those vendors to ensure their staffs were better trained in how to serve our students and families professionally, safely and effectively

### **Behavior interventions**

- Significantly reduced the number of short-term and long-term suspensions in 2011-12
  - Short-term suspensions dropped by 3,116 events the previous year, an 18-percent decrease
  - Long-term suspensions dropped by 172 events, a 30-percent decrease

- We reduced suspensions in every ethnic/racial/gender category except American Indian
  - Principals utilized more in-school discipline options
- Expanded the number of alternative seats for students at risk of, or experiencing short and long-term suspension by 385 at the elementary and high school levels.
- Repurposed 340 middle school In-School Suspension seats to include Alternative Learning Center Services
- Established a new program beginning this year for students with disabilities who are facing suspension, Transitions, our first full-day program for long-term suspended students with disabilities.