

Students and Parents have Choices

One success after another

National picture

- Racial integration as a national issue emerged in the 1960's and 70's
- Agreement and implementation generally was provided by court intervention
- Many communities are backsliding;
we are not
- Remain committed to racial balance with choice of program

A brief local history

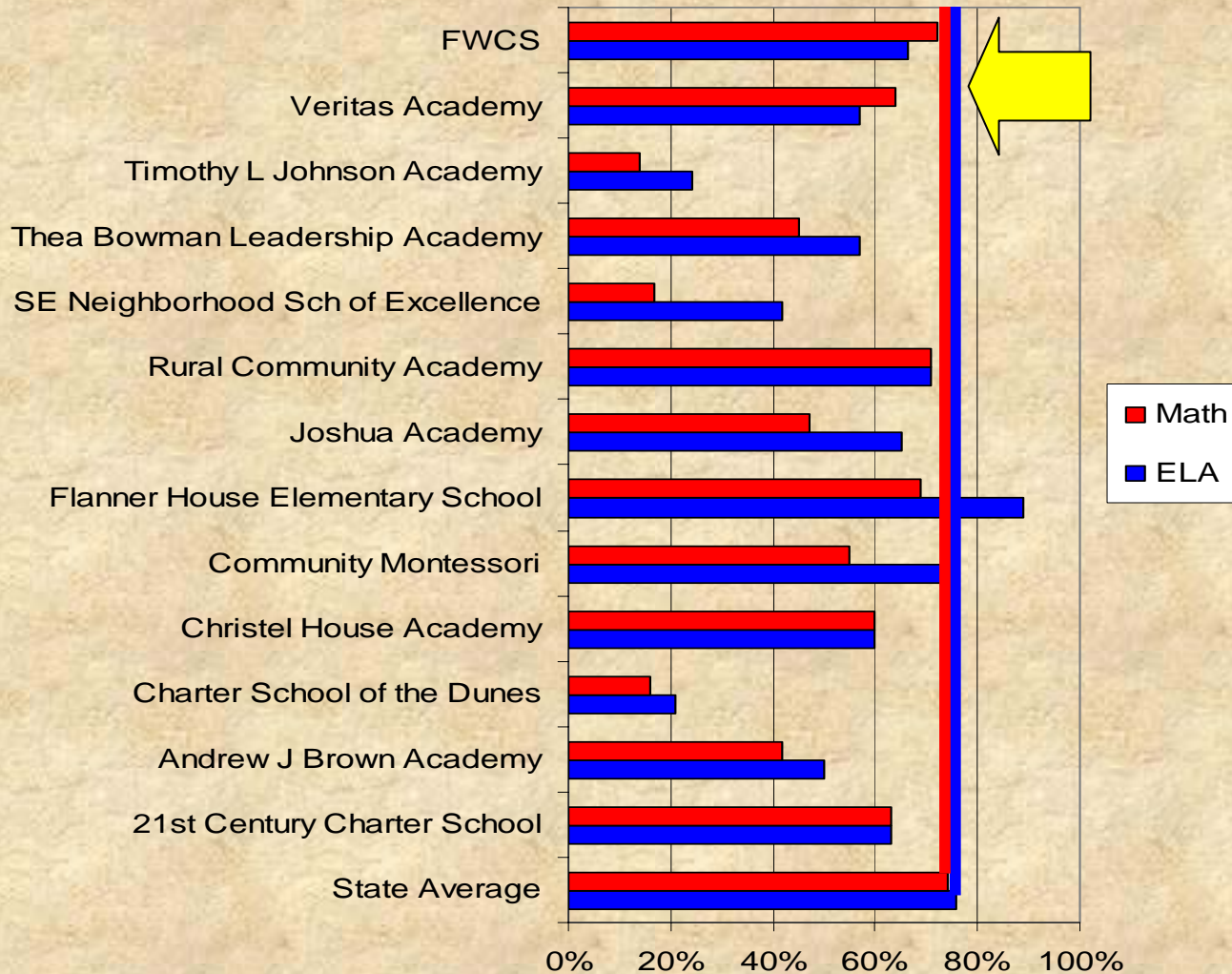
1979-80	Memorial Park and Weisser Park became Magnet Schools
1985 to 1990	Parents for Quality Education with Integration agreement finalized
1989-90 to 1991-92	Additional Magnet Schools created
1991-92	Choice for secondary school students begins
1990	First FWCS Showcase

Legislative solutions trying to replicate choice

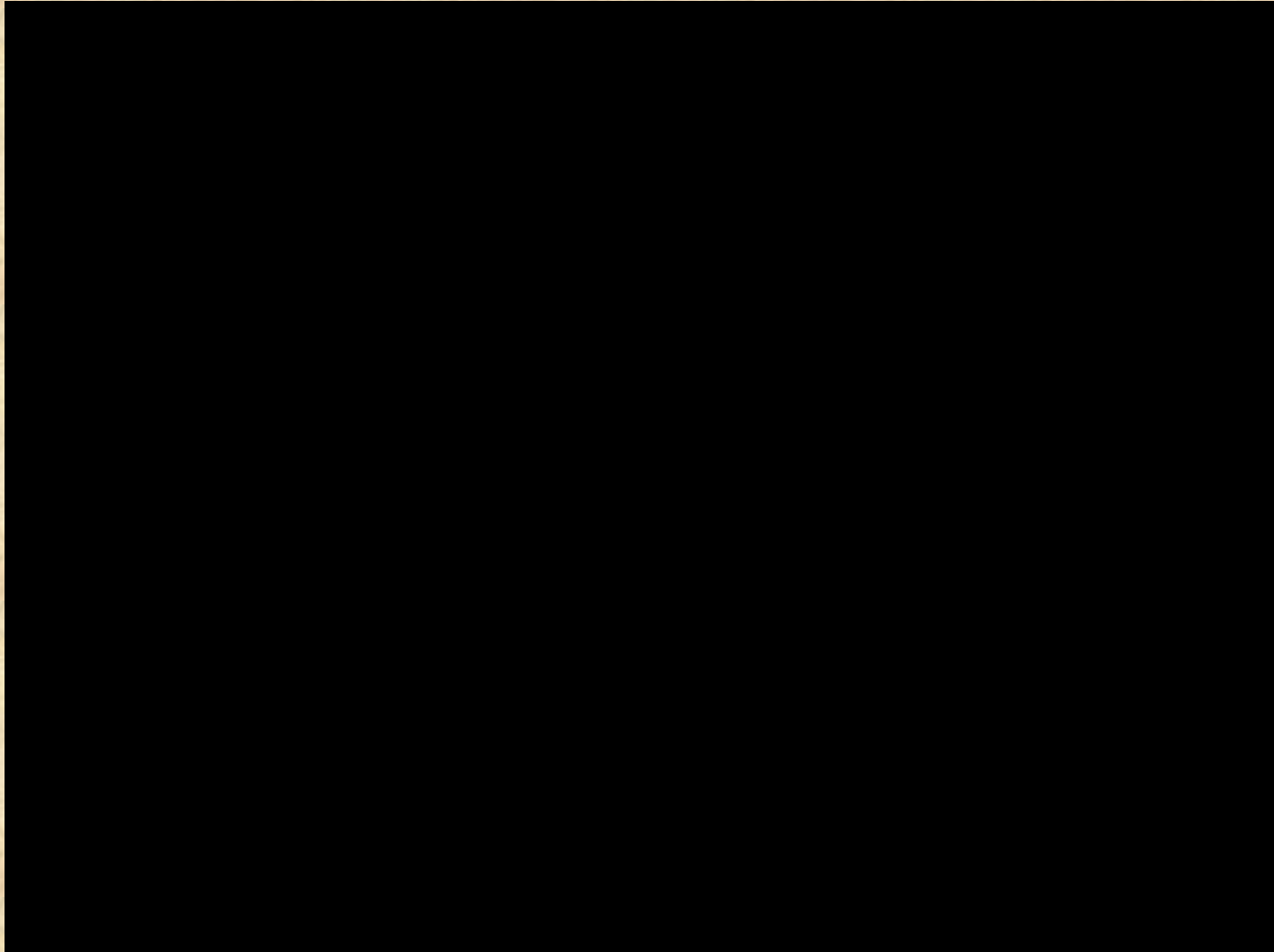
- Bills proposing increase choice- for the wrong reasons
 - Vouchers
 - Increase charter schools
 - Transport parochial children
- These attempts remove funding from public schools, rather than focus on quality

Indiana Charter Schools

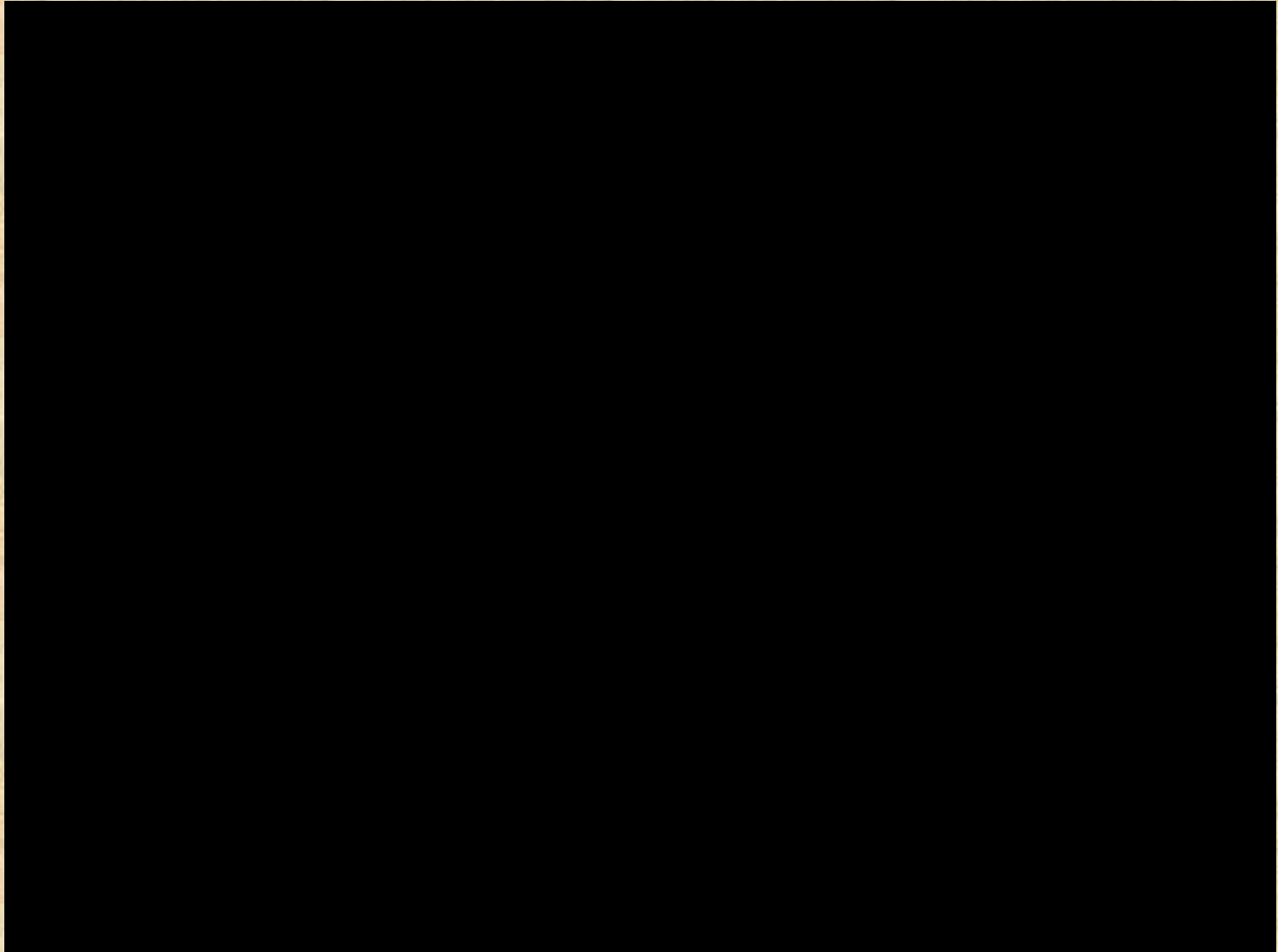
3rd Grade ISTEP- 2004-05



Why is choice important?
Parents say it best



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Why parents like the choice program

- Considered a reasonable, fair option
- Provides parents with a chance to enroll children in schools with attractive magnet programs
- Provides parents with academic choices
- Parents can decide based upon ISTEP

Choice Enhances Diversity

Magnet programs

Emphasis on a specific area of study at a school with a defined attendance area

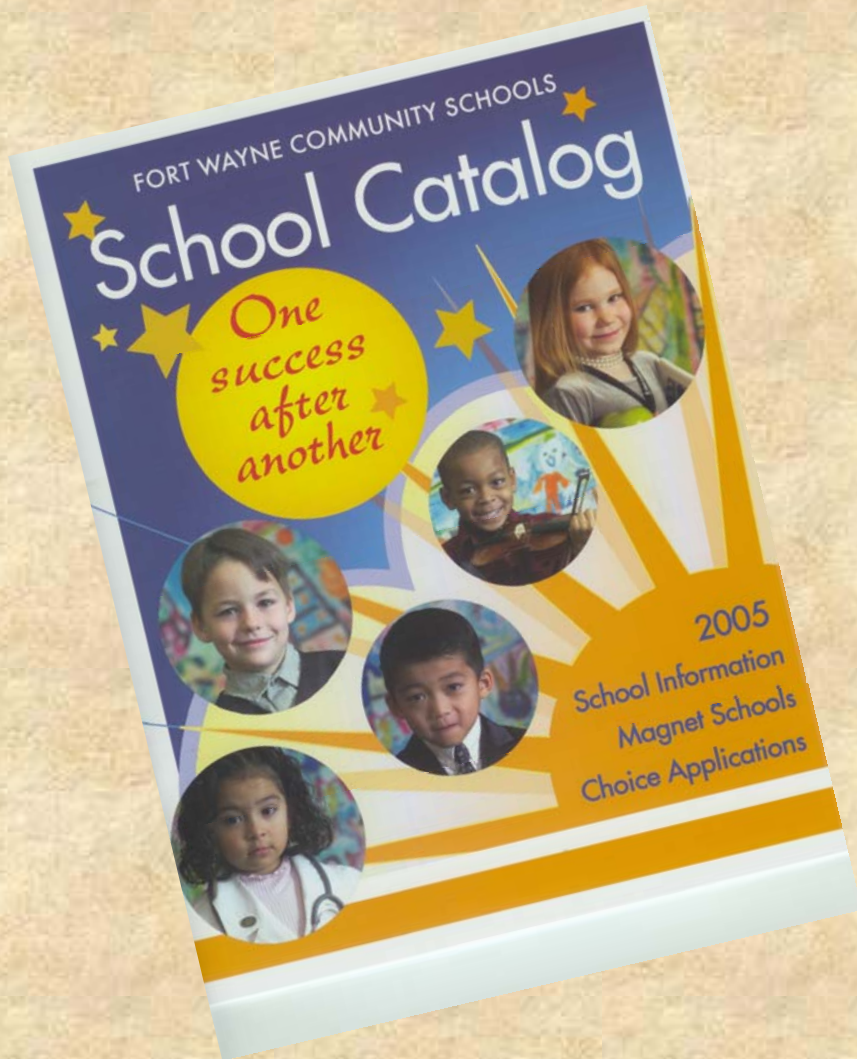
Global studies	Entrepreneurship
Latin Grammar	Montessori
Communications	ESL
Biology	Nature studies
Academy	Literature
Environmental studies	Math/science
Spanish immersion	Aerospace
Humanities	Multiage classrooms
Technology	Biophysical
Arts	Foreign language
Reggio Emilia	

The application process

	Elementary	Secondary
Application	3-15-05	2-25-05
Lottery Drawing	4-15-05	3-11-05

- Parents select a first and second choice school
- Drawing conducted. Remaining applicants form waiting lists
- Children on list enroll as additional space becomes available
- We have maintained the integrity of this process

Check the School Catalog



- Applications for the lottery- pp. 21 to 24
- Back cover- offers a good summary of programs in all schools

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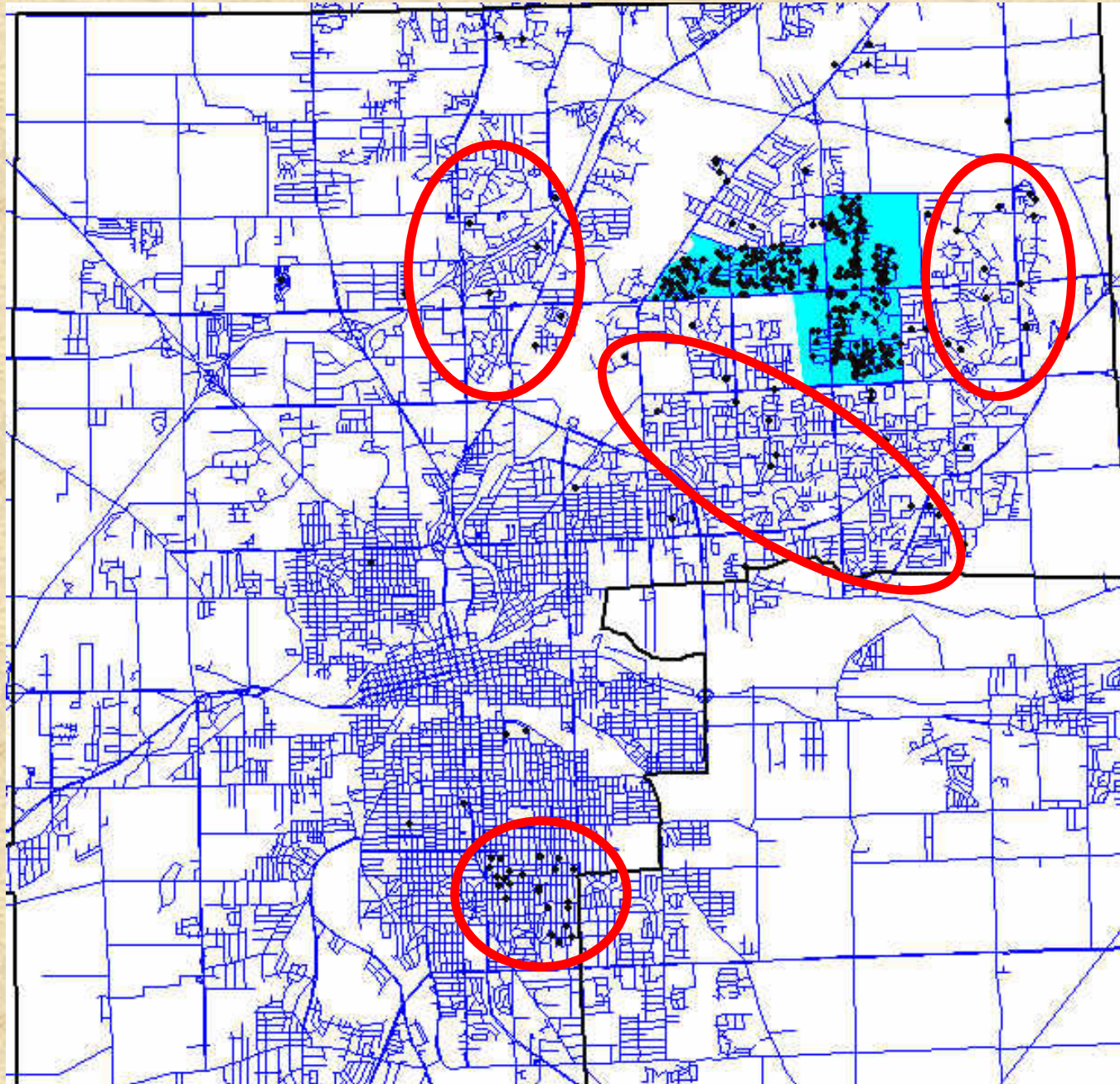
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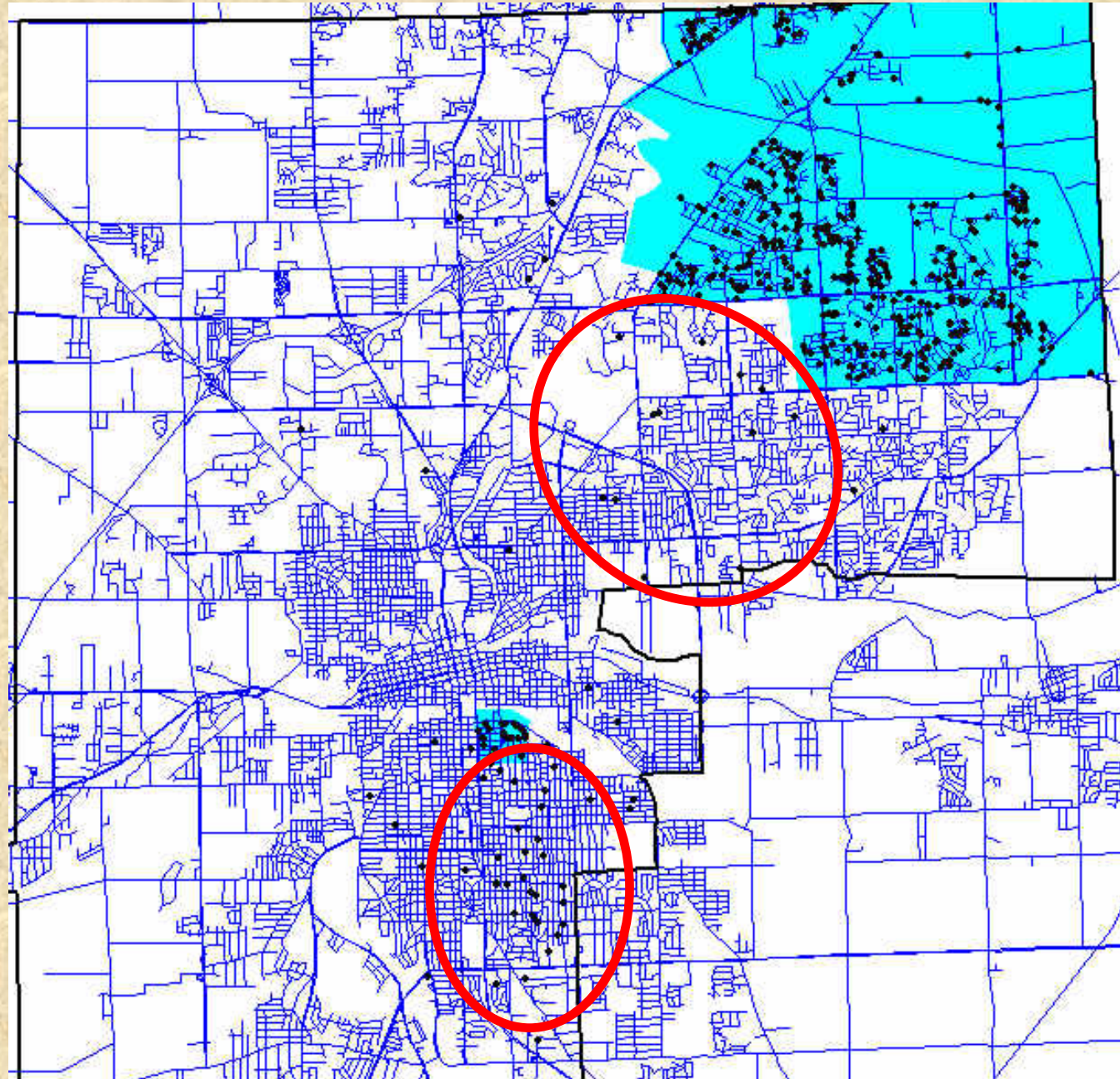
How extensively is choice used?

- Each year about 45%-50% of students in the lottery get their first choice
- From those on the waiting list, most are placed

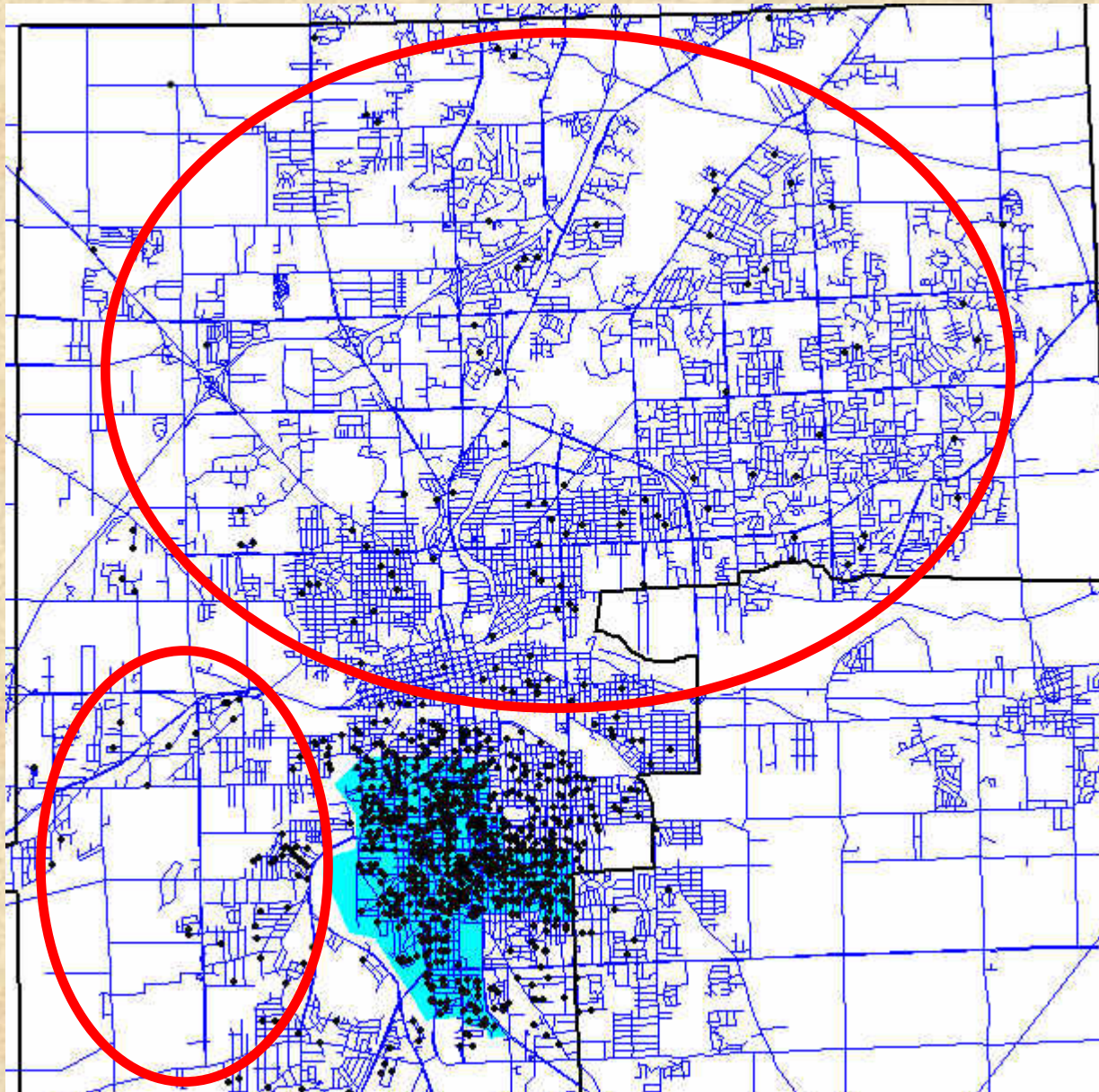
Student residences- St. Joe Central



Student residences-Jefferson



Student residences- South Side High



Challenges

Challenge	Solution
Cost	Careful budgeting and monitoring
Weather delays	Monitoring and communicating delays/cancellations in a timely way
Ensuring that choices are made for the right reasons	Staff available to discuss realistic options with students and parents
Parent access to children during the day	Administrative assistant support

Why do we do it?

- Parents and students want and deserve choice
- Diversity through racial balance

Increasing parent involvement in a school choice environment

- PTA
- Booster groups
- Key communicators
- Quality Improvement Team
- Volunteering

PTA

- Every school has an active PTA
- They provide support through volunteering

Booster groups

- High schools and middle schools have these organizations for athletics, performing arts, and other purposes
- Fund raising
- Assistance conducting events

Key Communicators

- Superintendent meets with these groups periodically
- They provide information about issues in the community, and suggestions for improvement

Quality Improvement Teams

- At least one parent, and a member of the community sits on every QIT in the district
- Create and monitor the school improvement plan

Nebraska's "Read to Succeed" Parent Night



High levels of
participation, 11
years running

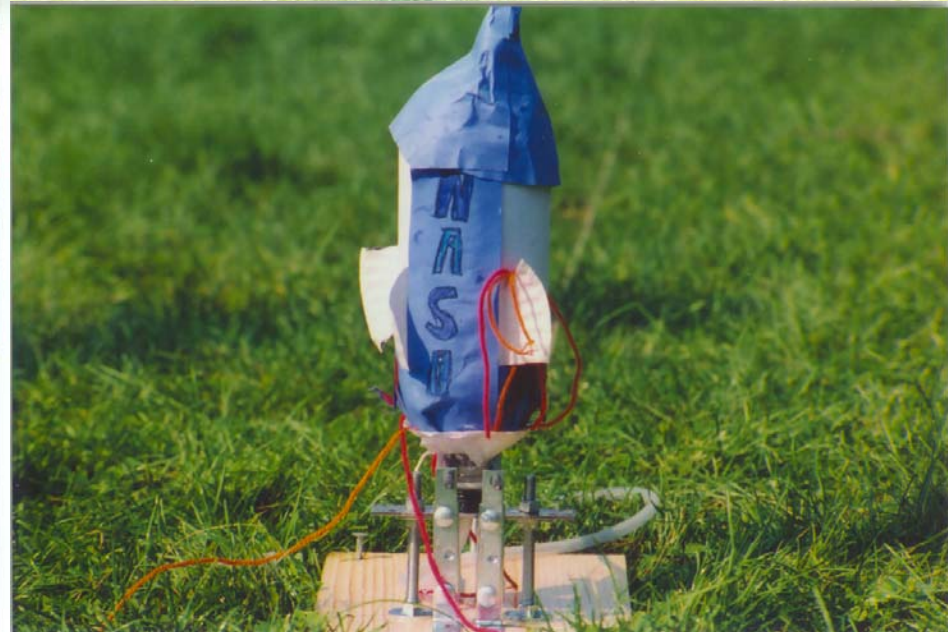


Nebraska students track their progress



Franke Park's NASA Program

- 3-year partnership
- Supports Science-Math



Showcase- 2005

