



WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MERGER THAT CREATED THE WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, in 1975, the Raleigh City Board of Education and the Wake County Board of Education approved a plan to consolidate their two school systems, and the North Carolina General Assembly enacted Chapter 717 to authorize the merger effective July 1, 1976; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 1976, approximately 20,000 students from Raleigh City Schools and 33,000 students from Wake County Schools came together to form the Wake County Public School System, a unified district serving approximately 53,000 students; and

WHEREAS, the merger was a bold act of local leadership rooted in the belief that investing in the success of every child strengthens the future of the entire community; and

WHEREAS, the merger advanced the ongoing work of school integration and educational equity, building on the courage of students and families who challenged segregation and the service of educators, school employees, public officials, civic leaders and community advocates who opened doors of opportunity; and

WHEREAS, within two years of the merger, WCPSS introduced its first magnet programs and has continued to expand educational opportunities through innovative programs designed to help students discover their strengths and prepare for their futures; and

WHEREAS, during the past five decades, WCPSS has grown from approximately 53,000 students to more than 161,000 students across 203 schools while remaining a vital part of Wake County's growth, prosperity and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, generations of students, alumni, educators, employees, families, Board members, elected officials and community partners have shaped the district and sustained its commitment to excellence and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the 50th anniversary offers an opportunity to honor the people who built and strengthened WCPSS, reflect on its history, celebrate shared progress and inspire the community to help write the next chapter of public education in Wake County; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Wake County Board of Education hereby commemorates the 50th anniversary of the July 1, 1976, merger of Raleigh City Schools and Wake County Schools and recognizes 2026 as a year to honor the history, people and impact of the Wake County Public School System; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board expresses its gratitude to the students, alumni, families, educators, employees, Board members, public officials and community partners whose courage, service and support have sustained public education in Wake County during the past 50 years; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board encourages schools and the broader community to participate in anniversary events, service, storytelling and learning that honor this shared legacy and deepens support for public education; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board renews its commitment to ensuring that every student is prepared to reach their full potential and lead productive lives in a complex and changing world, carrying forward the promise of unity, excellence and opportunity into the next 50 years.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 21st day of July 2026.

Tyler J. Swanson, Chair
Wake County Board of Education

Sam Hershey, Vice Chair
Wake County Board of Education

Cheryl Caulfield
District 1 Board Member

Christina Gordon
District 2 Board Member

Dr. Wing Ng
District 3 Board Member

Toshiba Rice
District 4 Board Member

Lynn Edmonds
District 5 Board Member

Chris Heagarty
District 7 Board Member

Dr. Jennifer Job
District 8 Board Member

Dr. Robert P. Taylor, Superintendent
Wake County Public School System