

**POSSIBLE RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR
WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AS OF SEPTEMBER 2007**

Research projects on the topics below will have priority. Other proposals will be considered if they do not require a great deal of staff or student time.

The Instructional Services Division is very interested in collaborating on the following studies, which would be helpful to WCPSS. Initial contact should be with Evaluation and Research (919-850-1903).

Project	Grade Span	Possible Tasks
Math Trailblazers	K-5	Qualitative study of program implementation. Quantitative study of impact, especially by level of implementation.
Literacy: Accelerated Learning Program	K-2	Mid-year checks of students identified by school and student progress. Interviews/observations of schools with the best results at the end of last year or the middle of this year. Survey to check implementation of strategy of focusing on strands with most need. Special focus could be the experiences of students with disabilities and limited English proficient students.
AG Study of Students Scoring Level IV on the EOG	3-8	Examine the experiences of low and high Level IV students in reading and mathematics; observations or teacher logs or surveys.
Grading and Homework	K-12	Interview staff and students about views, practices, and alternatives.
Algebra Grades	8-9	Study subsequent course-taking of similar students who take algebra in grade 8 vs. 9 (for students with similar End-of-Grade scores in grade 7). Check results in other systems and nationally.
High School Reading Materials and Program(s)	9-12	Study materials and programs used to provide effective reading instruction at the high school level along with impact.

Revised: September 2007
Contact: (919) 850-1903



www.wcpss.net/evaluation-research

Project	Grade Span	Possible Tasks
New High School Requirements	9-12	Determine the risk factors and graduation requirements that best predict dropping out or graduating. Examine most successful practices in promoting higher pass rates on EOCs in required courses. Study the effectiveness of remediation initiatives.
Studies on High School Required Courses/Tests	9-12	Follow-up on biology, US History, or algebra studies to further examine the instructional delivery style of the teachers found to be the most effective. In-depth study of the most effective teachers and schools. Support for study of English I and Civics and Economics.
Alternative Schools	6-12	Carry out qualitative study of student's experiences at alternative schools and their transition back to regular campuses.
Retention	K-12	Study retention rates, reasons, and impact. Study difference in success of students placed into the next grade with intervention versus those retained. Study relationship of retention to graduation.
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) English as a Second Language (ESL) programs	K-12	Interviews or survey of staff on services for LEP students. Examine impact on student success due to the move to having ESL at all campuses. Examine the way proficiency testing is handled at various schools, quantifying time needed and identifying the most time-efficient models.
Intervention Alignment	K-12	Check implementation and success of schools that are trying this approach to support struggling students. Support E&R/C&I work in this area.